MATURE CONTENT
Basilisk
1
The Kouga Ninja Scrolls
Original story by Fūtaro Yamada
Manga by Masaki Segawa

Basilisk

ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA

BASED ON THE KODANSHA NOVEL *THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS*

MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY DAVID URY
LETTERED BY FOLTZ DESIGN

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Basilisk

Basilisk volume 1 is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

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Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics, and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), as a title at the end of one's name, or in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics, and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-SAN: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-SAMA: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-DONO: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-KUN: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-CHAN: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

BOZU: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" or "squirt."

SEMPAI/ SENPAI: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

KOHAI: This is the opposite of "-sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

SENSEI: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[BLANK]: This is usually forgotten on these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute,* it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Basilisk

THE IGA AND THE KOUGA ...

...HAVE BEEN SWORN ENEMIES...

SLITHER

THESE TWO...

...NINJA CLANS...

THE DAWN OF TIME.

SINCE...

SWACK

Basilisk

THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS

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YEAR 19 OF THE KEICHO PERIOD,
APRIL.

SUNPU CASTLE

KILL NUMBER 1
[10 VS 10]

IEYASU TOKUGAWA
SHOGUN

HANZO HATTORI
HEAD OF THE TOKUGAWA NINJA CLAN

MUNENORI YAGIYUU
MASTER FENCING INSTRUCTOR

YASHAMARU

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

OGEN IGA

HEAD OF IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

DANJOU KOUGA

HEAD OF KOUGA MANJIDAKI SECT

SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI

KOUGA MANJIDAKI SECT

FLICK

GRIN

KA-PWAH

FWAH

CRACK

CRACK

SWIP

BONK

SCHWAA

CRACK

YOINK

YOINK

YOINK,

YOINK

YOINK

YOINK

PLUNK

PLUNK

URRM

THIS IS MADE FROM THE FINE BLACK HAIRS OF A HUMAN WOMAN... AND COATED WITH A SECRET OIL RENDERED FROM A WILD BEAST'S BLUBBER.

KA-THUNK

NOTHING ELSE CUTS QUITE LIKE IT, OLD MAN.

PLUNK

PLUNK

THUD

AH, YASHAMARU'S NINJA TECHNIQUE IS TRULY AMAZING.

HEH...

HEH HEH HEH.

SWIP

SWIP

WHAT DO YOU THINK, YAGIYUU-SAMA?

HMM...

WHINNN

...ALL TIED UP AND SPRAWLED OUT ON THE GROUND.

LOOK AT THAT KOUGA FOOL...

FLAP

QUITE A PATHETIC SIGHT, DON'T YOU THINK, DANJOU-DONO?

.....

FLAP

S.S.S. FWIP

GRIN

IT'S A LITTLE TOO EARLY TO CLAIM VICTORY, OGEN.

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

GRRRRRR

HM?

SQUIRT

!

SWIPE

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

SPLAT

YANK

UH...

URR...

HEH HEH. SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI'S PHLEGM IS JUST LIKE GLUE...

...ONLY A THOUSAND TIMES STICKIER!

THUD

SWIVEL

SHUDDER
ブ"

URR...

UH...

ブ"

GRRRIP

YOUR TECHNIQUE DOESN'T WORK SO WELL WHEN YOUR HANDS ARE TIED UP, DOES IT?

.....

HA HA HA.
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, YASHAMARU?

SWIP

FWACK

BOING BOING

THUNK

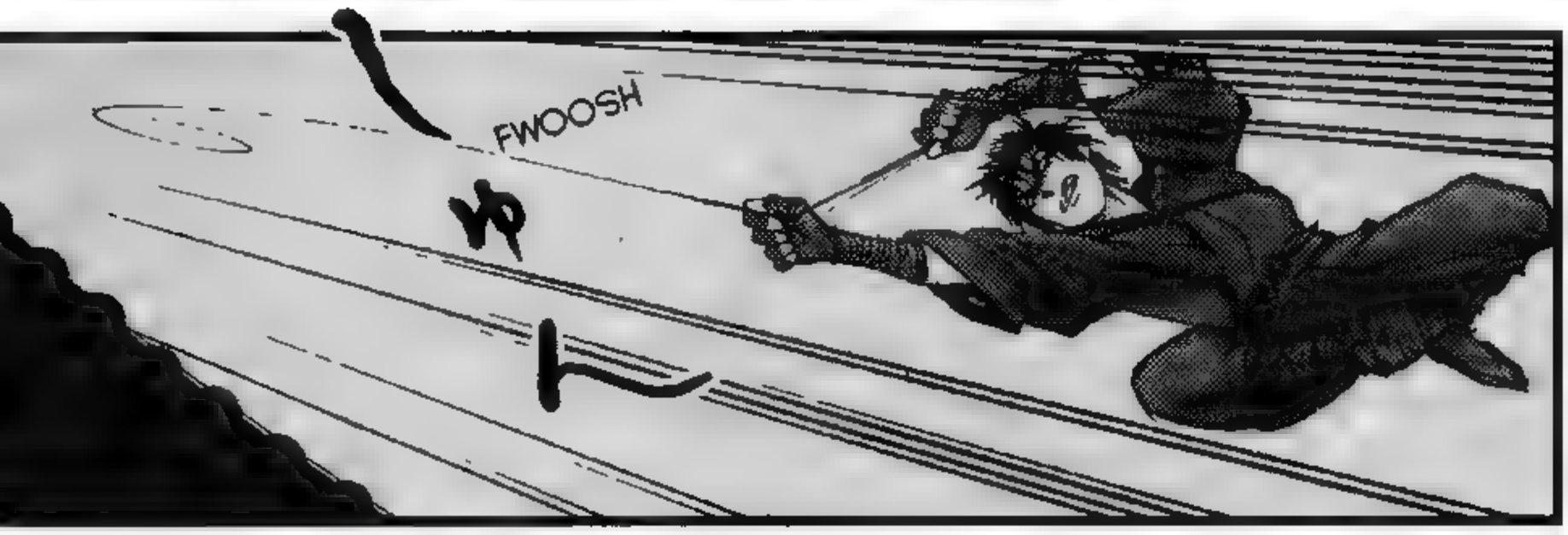
SHOUGEN.

YOU'RE DEAD...

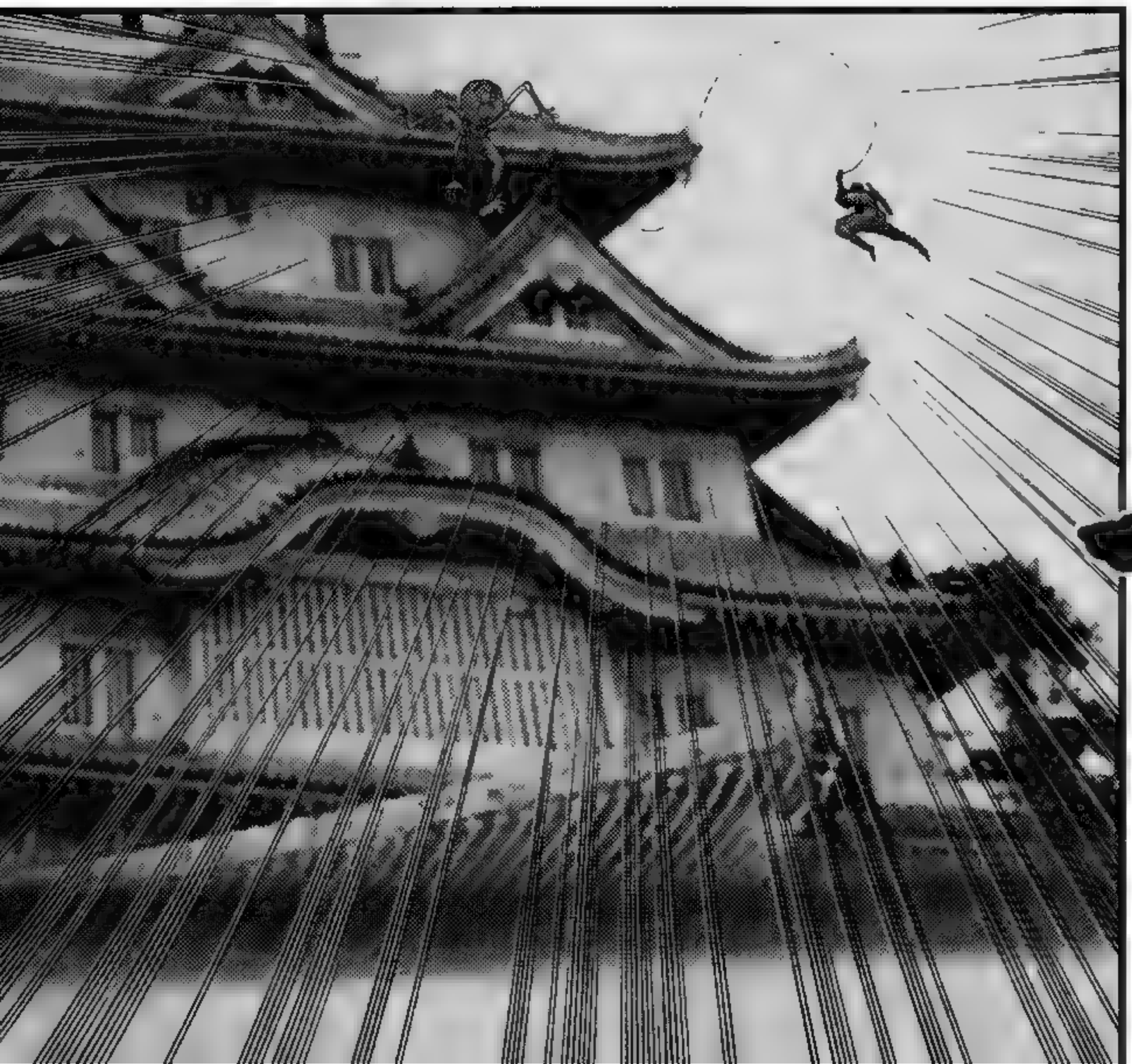
I LIKE YOUR STYLE, YASHAMARU!

HEH HEH...

FWOOSH


FWOOSH

PLOINK
PLOINK



ROAR

ROAR

ROAR

ROAR

ROAR

AND OGEN, THE LEADER OF THE IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT.

THAT'S DANJOU KOUGA, THE LEADER OF THE KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT.

WHAT INTEREST COULD IEYASU-SAMA HAVE IN THIS SORDID BUNCH?

...BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND...

I CAN SEE WHY MY PREDECESSOR FORCED THEM TO SIGN A TRUCE...

WHAT AN EVIL BUNCH...

PRECISELY.

NINJA?

SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER.

PRIEST TENKAI NANKOU

GUARDIAN OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUN

RIGHT NOW, THE TOKUGAWA CLAN...

...IS DIVIDED INTO TWO FACTIONS, WITH YOUR OLDEST SON TAKECHIO'S SECT ON ONE SIDE, AND YOUR YOUNGEST SON KUNICHIYO'S SECT ON THE OTHER.

EVEN THE SERVANTS HAVE JOINED THE FIGHT.

...THAT WE USE NINJA TO DECIDE WHO WILL BECOME THE THIRD TOKUGAWA SHOGUN?

ARE YOU SUGGESTING, HIGH PRIEST...

...REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT WE DEFEAT THE TOYOTOMI CLAN.

IF WE DON'T STOP THIS INFIGHTING, THE TOKUGAWA CLAN WILL BE DOOMED TO A PATH OF DESTRUCTION...

WE TRIED TO SOLVE THIS MATTER USING LOGIC, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THAT.

I'VE THOUGHT LONG AND HARD ON THIS DILEMMA.

THAT'S WHY I CAME TO SEEK YOUR GUIDANCE, HIGH PRIEST TENKAI-DONO.

I UNDER-STAND THAT.

AND WE FARED NO BETTER WHEN WE USED A PSYCHO-LOGICAL APPROACH.

HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO WASTE THE LIVES OF SO MANY TOKUGAWA SAMURAI.

...WOULD BE FOR THE TWO SIDES TO HOLD A BATTLE OF TEN AGAINST TEN.

AT FIRST, I THOUGHT A FITTING WAY FOR A MILITARY FAMILY SUCH AS THE TOKUGAWA CLAN TO SETTLE THIS...

WE WON'T SUFFER A SINGLE SCRATCH...

PRECISELY... IF WE USE NINJA...

...NINJA INSTEAD?

SO WE USE...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, IEYASU-DONO?

...EVEN IF IT ENDS IN A BLOOD-BATH.

WHOOSH

SWARM

CALL IT OFF.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

SLAM

THAT'S ENOUGH!

GRRIP

SCRINCH

BOING

I'VE NEVER SEEN NINJA WITH SUCH SKILL AND TECHNIQUE.

I'D HEARD MY PREDECESSOR SPEAK OF THEM, BUT...

I'M ASHAMED OF MY IGNORANCE.

I HAD NO IDEA THAT OUR NEIGHBORING TERRITORY HELD SUCH SKILLED NINJAS.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

DANJOU KOUGA, OGEN IGA...

THAT WAS TRULY A FASCINATING SPECTACLE.

HMM...

THANK YOU, MY LORD.

YES, MY LORD.

...TO DETERMINE THE NEXT TOKUGAWA SHOGUN.

...IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO TEST YOUR SKILLS AS NINJA IN A FIGHT TO THE DEATH...

AND NOW I'D LIKE TO ASK...

There may have been as many as four predecessors who went by the name Hanzo Hattori.

IF WE CAN JUST GET THAT OUT OF THE WAY—

BUT FIRST, THERE'S THE LITTLE MATTER OF NULLIFYING THE TRUCE WE SIGNED WITH THE FORMER HANZO HATTORI-SAMA.

IF THAT IS THE WISH OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUN, THEN I WILL GLADLY ACCEDE.

WE'VE BEEN SWORN ENEMIES FOR 400 YEARS.

WELL SAID, HANZO.

AS YOU WISH.

...ON THESE TWO SCROLLS.

WELL THEN, JUST WRITE THE NAMES OF TEN NINJAS FROM EACH CLAN...

WHEN THE DUST SETTLES AND THE KILLING IS OVER...

...THE SURVIVING CLAN SHALL DELIVER THIS SCROLL...

THE KUNICHIYO SECT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE KOUGA CLAN...

AS OF TODAY...

THIS BATTLE WILL DECIDE THE NEXT TOKUGAWA SHOGUN.

...AND THE TAKECHIYO SECT WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE IGA CLAN.

...AND RULE FOR 1000 YEARS!

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JIMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

THIS CONTRACT HEREBY NULLIFIES THE TRUCE PUT INTO EFFECT BY HANZO HATTORI. THE TEN KOUGA NINJA AND THE TEN IGA NINJA NAMED ON THIS SCROLL WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH. THE SURVIVORS MUST DELIVER THIS SCROLL TO THE SUNPU CASTLE ON THE LAST DAY OF MAY, UPON WHICH THE SURVIVING CLAN SHALL RULE FOR 1000 YEARS.

APRIL, KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU TOKUGAWA

KOUGA

OBORO

TOKI PASS

THE BORDER BETWEEN KOUGA AND IGA TERRITORY

土吹峠にて

朧

GENNOSUKE KOUGA

KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT

GENNOSUKE-SAMA...

OBORO

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

RIP

WHOOSH

AH!

OBORO-DONO.

FLUMP

I'M SORRY, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

EVER SINCE MY GRANDMOTHER AND THE OTHERS GOT CALLED AWAY TO SUNPU, I CAN'T STOP WORRYING ABOUT THEM... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

WHAT'S WRONG, OBORO-DONO?

THE HATRED BETWEEN OUR TWO CLANS IS A THING OF THE PAST.

THE LETTER FROM HANZO-DONO JUST SAID THAT THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUN WOULD LIKE TO SEE A DISPLAY OF OUR SKILLS.

DON'T WORRY, OBORO-DONO.

THERE'S NO WAY OUR TWO CLANS WILL EVER FIGHT AGAINST EACH OTHER.

AS LONG AS THE PREVIOUS HANZO HATTORI'S "KOUGA AND IGA TRUCE" IS IN EFFECT...

I BET THE REASON THEY CALLED ON US...

THAT'S WHAT MY GRANDFATHER TOLD ME. HE SET OUT FOR SUNPU AS WELL.

...WAS THAT HANZO-DONO HEARD THE RUMORS OF OUR ENGAGEMENT...

...AND WANTED TO BRING THE TWO CLANS TOGETHER...

...SO THAT HE COULD OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE IT.

I'M SORRY, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

I GET SO WORRIED... I CAN'T HELP IT.

BUT I DON'T CARE. I LIKE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE.

I KNOW YOU CAN'T HELP YOURSELF.

EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE BORN INTO A NINJA FAMILY, YOU DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT NINJA TECHNIQUE, NOT TO MENTION SWORD FIGHTING.

OGEN WOULDN'T HAVE LET ME HAVE YOUR HAND SO EASILY.

BESIDES, IF YOU WEREN'T SUCH A KLUTZ...

.....

I WISH MY GRANDFATHER AND OGEN...

...WOULD HURRY UP AND SET A DATE FOR OUR CEREMONY.

YES...

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THAT DAY TO COME.

THE BANK OF THE ABE RIVER

JUST OUTSIDE OF SUNPU CASTLE

WHOOSH

THIS IS FOR THE KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT.

AND THIS ONE IS FOR THE IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT.

GRIN

SWIP

THINGS HAVE TAKEN A STRANGE TURN, HAVEN'T THEY, OGEN?

THE TWO OF THEM ARE PROBABLY TOGETHER SOMEWHERE EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

POOR DEARS...I SUPPOSE IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE.

...WAS ABOUT TO BRING OUR CLANS TOGETHER...

JUST WHEN THE ENGAGE-MENT BETWEEN MY GRANDDAUGHTER AND YOUR GRANDSON...

...WHEN WE WERE YOUNG.

I WAS SO IN LOVE WITH OGEN OF IGA.

YOU AND I WERE JUST LIKE THEM ONCE...

IT'S POINTLESS TO BRING THAT UP NOW.

AFTER ALL, HOW COULD WE GO AGAINST A 400-YEAR FAMILY RIVALRY?

GOD'S WILL CAN BE CRUEL.

I SUPPOSE IT WAS FATE.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW SKILLED THE TEN IGA-TSUBAGAKURE NINJA ARE, DO YOU?

HEH HEH. DANJOU-DONO...

ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW HIGHLY SKILLED THE TEN KOUGA-MANJIDANI NINJA ARE?

...BY THE WAY, OGEN.

FYUU

TEN?

THWACK

DON'T YOU MEAN NINE, OGEN?

BWING

IT'S A POISONED NEEDLE.

YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN MORE CAREFUL, OGEN.

SWIP

AHH!

AHH!

AH...

UGH...

STING

OGEN

OBORO

CRUNCH

YASHA

LOOK! THAT FOOL YAS-HAMARU ...

...DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE WHEN I SLID THIS OUT OF HIS KIMONO.

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE 'GA CLAN

OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
KOUSAI AZUKI
I'NGOROU AMANO
KOSHIROU CHI'KUMA
NUNK' MIND
MOTAKUBI
TENZEN'YAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
KUSEI JIMUSH
SHOUGEN KAZAMACH'
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAG'
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKO

FWIP

THIS IS THE END, OGEN.

DAN—

DA—

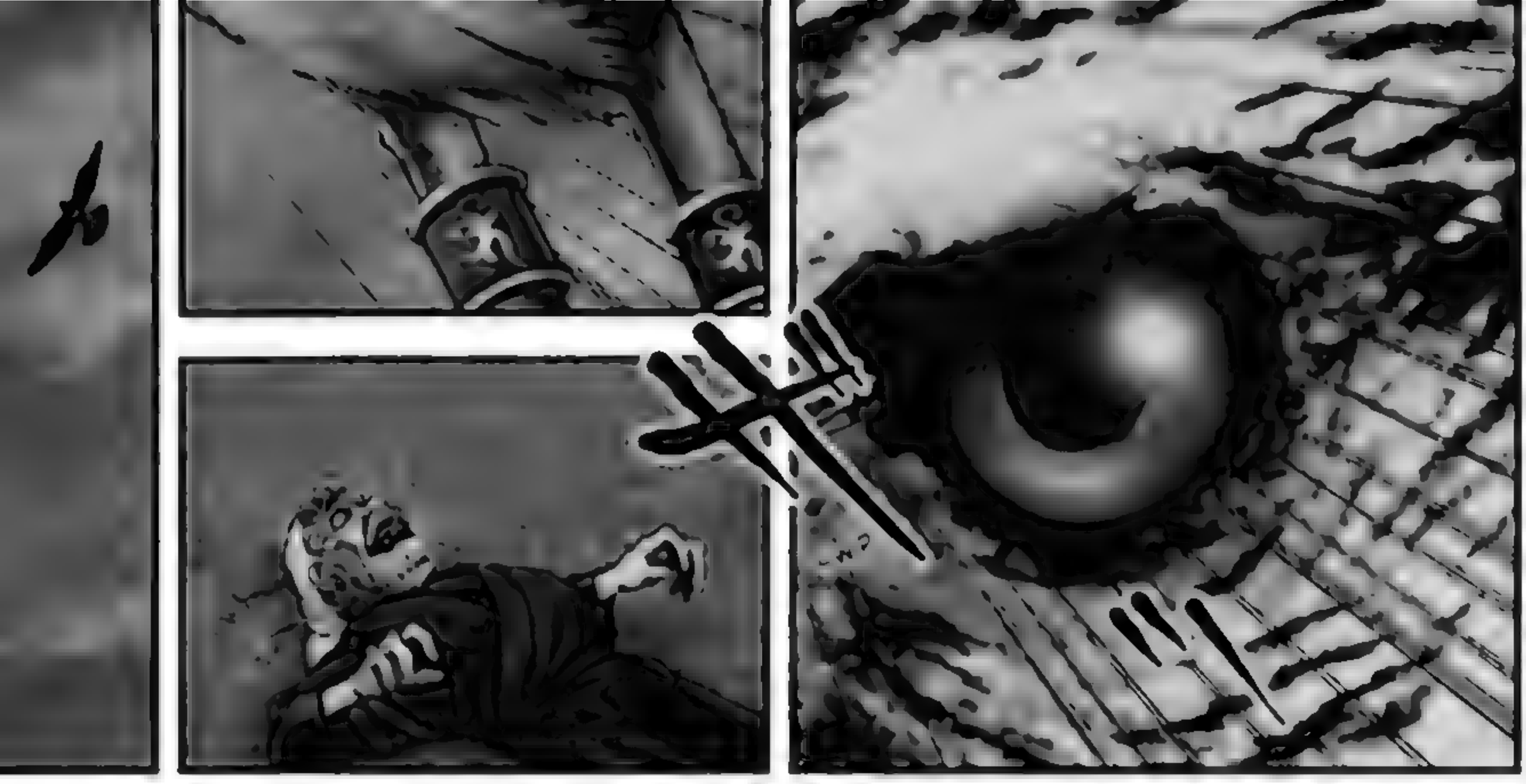
GWAASH

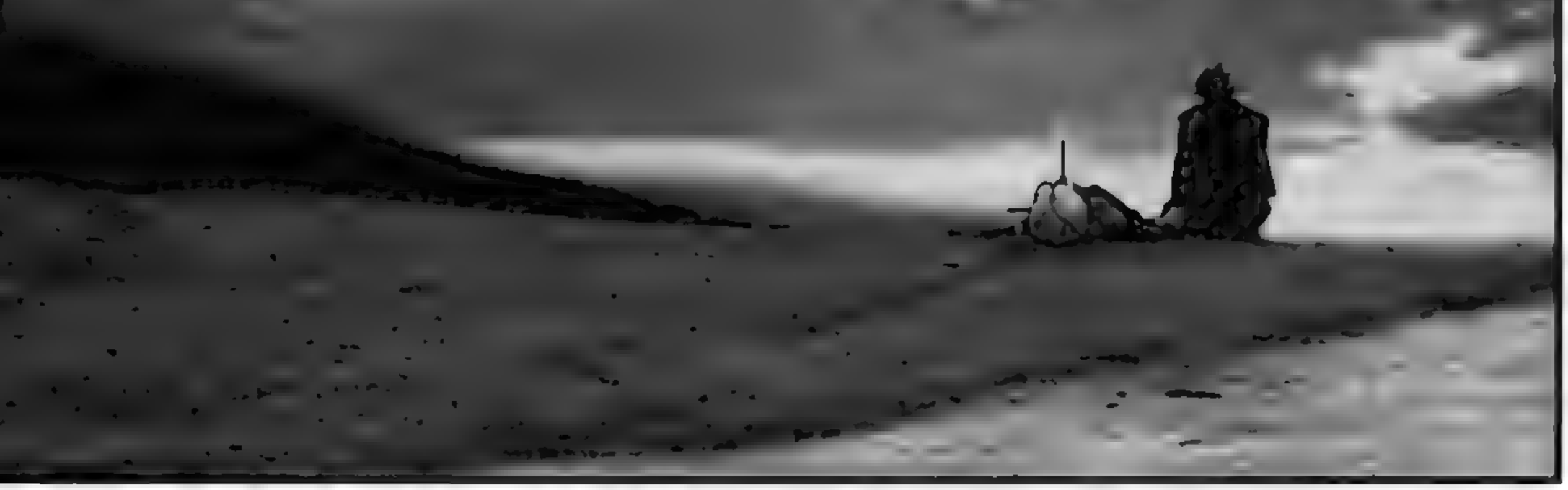
GYA!

GYAAAAAAA!

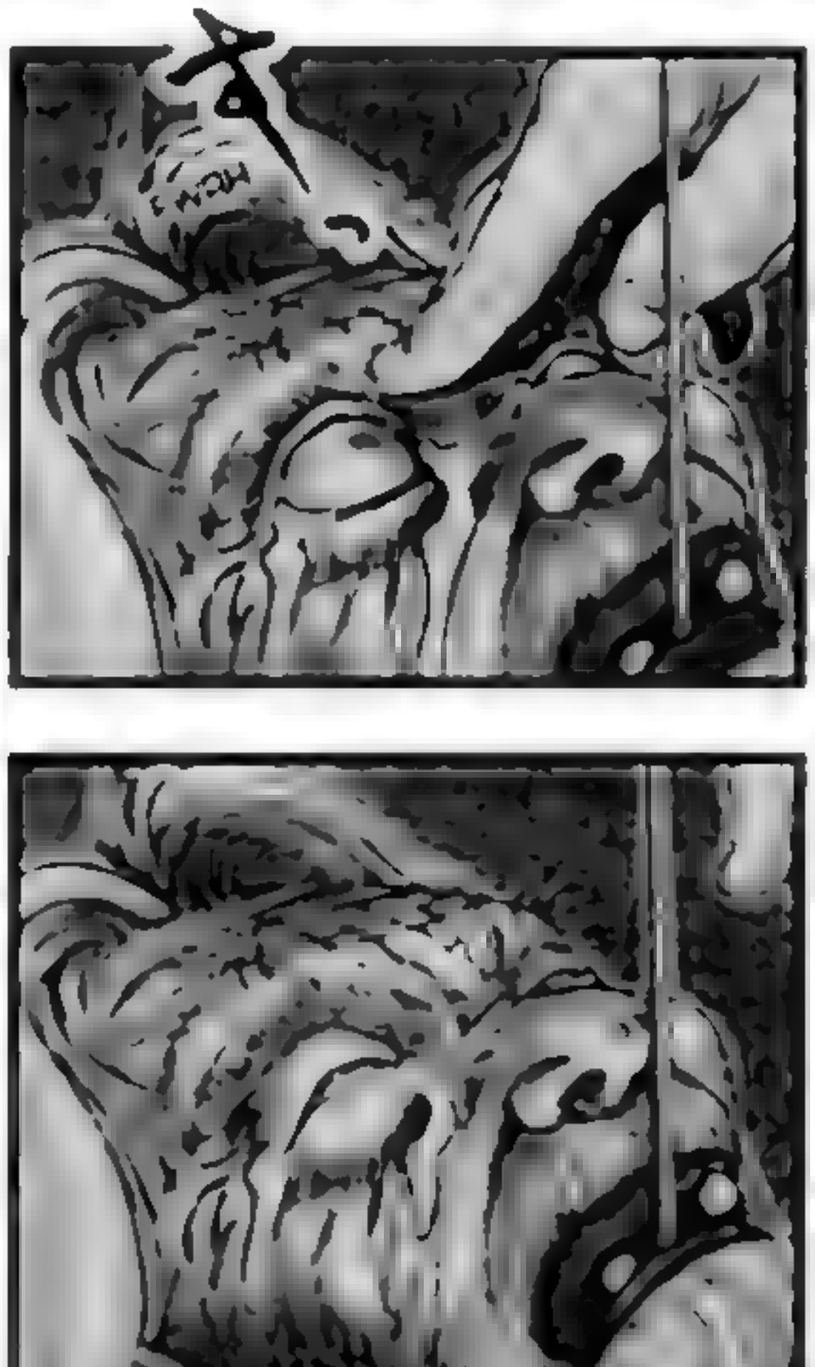
THUD

AHHH!





THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS...
...WHEN TWO CLANS GO TO WAR, OGEN.


HOW?

AH!

FLAP

O-

THUD

SPLASH

FLIP

O...

...GEN.

HEH...

GRIN

HEH HEH...

HEH.

.....

COU

E KOUGA

DANJO

UKE KOBA

IIMUSHI

ACHI

SWIPE

...DANJOU

...OGEN

SPLASH

THUD ドト

END OF KILL
NUMBER 1

OBORO-
DONO.

OKAY...

...GENNOSUKE-
SAMA.

THE RAIN HAS STOPPED. IF WE HURRY, WE CAN MAKE IT BACK TO IGA BEFORE SUNRISE.

ばさっ
FLAP

……

KILL NUMBER 2

[9 VS 9]

SQUAWK

VZ''

FLUTTER

HYUU

VP

TURNS OUT IT WAS CARRYING A SCROLL.

PHEW... I WAS WONDERING WHAT THE HELL THAT HAWK WAS UP TO...

SCRATCH

VZ''

SCRATCH

VZ''

JOUSUKE UDONO

KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT

FLIP

FLIP

LET'S SEE...

WHO'S THERE?

THWINK

AHH!

CRACK

FLASH

ROUSAI AZUKI

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

WHY DON'T YOU HAND THAT OVER TO ME, JOUSUKE UDONO?

A KOUGA BASTARD LIKE YOU HAS NO RIGHT TO TAKE THAT SCROLL.

THAT WAS OGEN-SAMA'S HAWK.

HA! WELL, WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T OLD MAN ROUSAI OF THE IGA CLAN.

SHUT UP, JOUSUKE!

JOUSUKE!

HMM...

WELL THEN, THAT MUST MEAN THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM SUNPU...

I WONDER WHAT IT SAYS.

FLIP

FLIP

WE'RE ALL TRYING TO LEAVE THE PAST BEHIND US.

QWINK

I KNOW OUR CLANS ARE SWORN ENEMIES, ROUSAI...

BUT WE'RE HELD DOWN BY THE HATTORI TRUCE...

...AND GENNOSUKE-SAMA AND OBORO-SAMA ARE ABOUT TO BE WED...

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS, JOUSUKE.

FLIP

FLIP

I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT WE CAN'T START KILLING EACH OTHER JUST WHEN GENNOSUKE-SAMA IS ABOUT TO BE MARRIED.

IN OTHER WORDS... THIS IS JUST A GAME...

A MATCH OF WITS... BETWEEN THE KOUGA AND THE IGA CLAN.

IT'S MERELY A FRIENDLY LITTLE NINJA COMPETI-TION.

HMMPH!

WHOOSH

SMACK

WHACK

AHHHH!

HYA!

AHHHH!

WHOA!

THE VERY IDEA OF THE IGA AND THE KOUGA MAKING PEACE DISGUSTS ME!

EVEN "FRIENDLY LITTLE COMPETITIONS" END IN DEATH SOMETIMES, JOUSUKE.

CRIMP

THWONK

CRIMP

SLAM

HYA!

BOINK

FWOOSH

GRRR

FLIP FLIP FLIP

THAT FAT FREAK!

HAHHH.... THE FLOATING BALL TECHNIQUE?

HSOOMZ

YOU FAT FREAK OF NATURE!

YOU RUBBERY OLD BASTARD!

FWOOSH

UWAHHH!

ZWOOSH

WHOOAAA!

OBORO-SAMA.

AKEGINU

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

OH! HELLO.

YOU'RE RATHER LATE, OBORO-SAMA.

NENKI MINO

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

WE CAME TO LOOK FOR YOU.

HOTARUBI

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

I TOLD YOU THAT THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME AS LONG AS I'M WITH GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

JINGOROU AMAYO

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

WELL...

UNTIL OGEN-SAMA COMES BACK FROM SUNPU, YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THE CLAN, OBORO-SAMA.

YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL.

I APOLOGIZE. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

IT'S MY FAULT.

?

WHOOSH

WAAH!

WHOOSH

!?

!

JOUSUKE!

OBO...

...RO?

AHH!
AH!
AHH!
OOF!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, JOUSUKE?
ゴロ ゴロ
THUNK
ゴロ ゴロ
OUCH, OUCH OUCH OUCH!

I...

I WASN'T STARING...

...TELL OBORO-SAMA TO STOP STARING AT ME!

GE-GENNNOSUKE-SAMA... PLEASE...

I KNOW YOU WEREN'T.

OBORO-DONO WAS BORN...

IT'S NOT A NINJA TECHNIQUE OR A TRICK...

...WITH THOSE DEVASTATING EYES.

THE SLIGHTEST GLANCE FROM THOSE MYSTERIOUS EYES...

... CAN RENDER THE MOST POWERFUL NINJA HELPLESS.

!

RUSTLE

THAT SCROLL WAS SENT BY OGEN-SAMA!

GET THE SCROLL THAT JOUSUKE HAS HIDDEN IN HIS KIMONO!

AKEGINU!

HAHH

HAHH

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, JOUSUKE?

STARING ぎろっ

STEP スタ スタ

I-I'M SORRY.

YOU FOOL!

SMACK

JUST A FRIENDLY LITTLE COMPETITION... THAT'S ALL...

WELL...ROUSAI-DONO AND I WERE JUST HAVING A LITTLE CONTEST TO SEE WHO GETS THE SCROLL...

WAIT!

GO AHEAD, OBORO-DONO. TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

OUCH, OUCH.

WHA-WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, JINGOROU?

YOU CAN'T OPEN THAT SCROLL IN FRONT OF GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

...UNTIL SHE RETURNS.

IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT IT FROM KOUGA EYES...

THAT'S A SECRET SCROLL SENT BY OGEN-SAMA.

ALLOW ME TO EXCUSE MYSELF.

HE'S RIGHT.

.....

FWICK

PLOINK

DAMN IT! YOU IDIOT, JINGOROU!

AH, GENNOSUKE-SAMA!

OUR CLANS HAVE BEEN ENEMIES FOR 400 YEARS. YOU CAN'T BLAME THEM FOR THEIR SECRECY.

.....

HEH HEH.

HEH...

JINGOROU!

JINGOROU! WHAT DID MY GRAND-MOTHER SAY?

OGEN-SAMA AND DANJOU-SAMA ARE JUST GOING TO TAKE IN SOME OF EDO'S SIGHTS BEFORE THEY RETURN HOME.

THE KOUGA AND THE IGA HAVE MADE PEACE.

DON'T WORRY, OBORO-SAMA!

CRINKLE

WHAT WONDERFUL NEWS!

WELL!

I HAD TO HONOR MY DUTY AS A NINJA.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR MY POOR MANNERS, GENNOSUKE-SAMA, BUT...

HMM...

....

WHAT A GREAT IDEA, NENKI!

HEH...WELL, GEN-NOSUKE-SAMA...

WHY DON'T YOU RELAX AND STAY IN IGA FOR A WHILE?

DON'T WORRY. CONSIDER IT FORGOTTEN.

...OKAY, I'LL GO TO IGA.

PLEASE.

PLEASE.

PLEASE COME WITH US TO IGA, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

SQUEEZE

?

I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

WA-WAIT A MINUTE, GENNOSUKE-SAMA!

PLEASE.

WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG TOO, LIDONO-SAMA?

HEH... WELL...

OKAY THEN, *HEH.*

YOU LOOK AFTER THEM, AKEGINU.

WE'RE GOING TO PICK SOME MOUNTAIN HERBS BEFORE WE HEAD BACK.

NENKI, YOU HURRY ALONG AND CALL TENZEN-SAMA.

I WILL.

LEAVE IT TO ME, JINGOROU-SAMA.

K GRIN

THIS CONTRACT HEREBY NULLIFIES THE TRUCE PUT INTO EFFECT BY HANZO HATTORI THE TEN KOUGA NINJA AND THE TEN IGA NINJA NAMED ON THIS SCROLL WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH THE SURVIVORS MUST DELIVER THIS SCROLL TO THE SUNPU CASTLE ON THE LAST DAY OF MAY, UPON WHICH THE SURVIVING CLAN SHALL RULE FOR 1000 YEARS

APRIL KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU TOKUGAWA

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

[redacted]
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

[redacted] KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JIMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
CYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI

TENZEN YAKUSHIJI

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

.....

OGEN-SAMA... IS DEAD.

AND I WOULD IMAGINE THAT...

KOSHIROU CHIKUMA

IGA-TSUBAGAKURE SECT

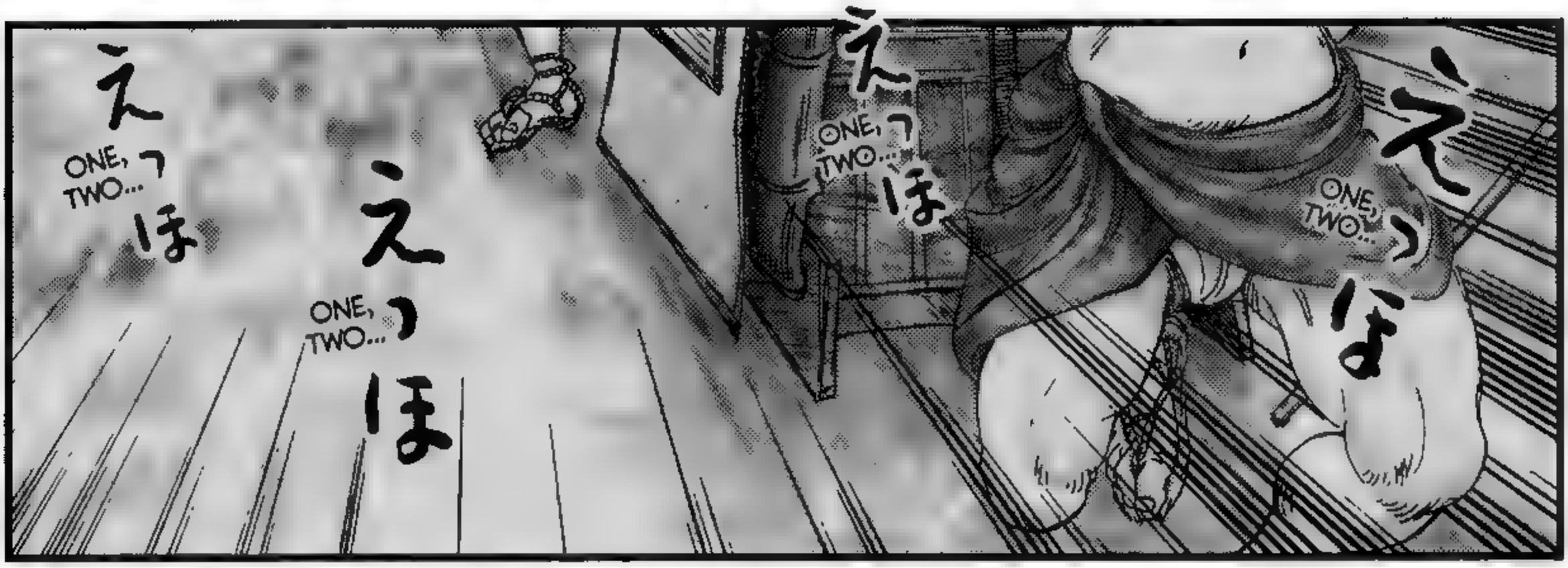
.....

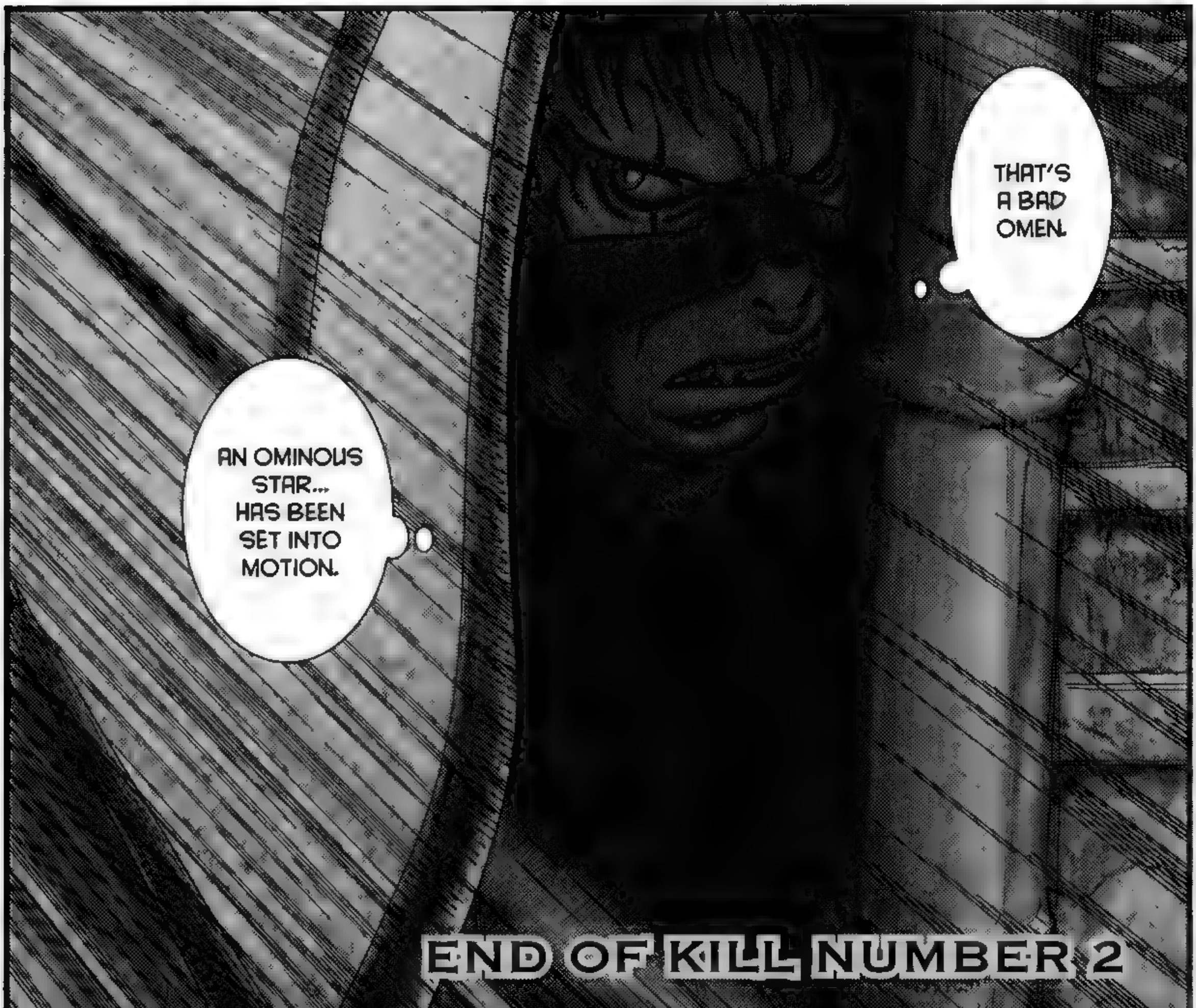
DANJOU KOUGA IS DEAD AS WELL.

...THE KOUGA AND IGA TRUCE.

THAT'S THE END OF...

HEH, HEH, HEH.





END OF KILL NUMBER 2

HEH, HEH.

FINALLY THE HATTORI TRUCE HAS BEEN DISSOLVED.

THEY FELL RIGHT INTO OUR TRAP!

WE LURED GENNOSUKE KOUGA AND JOUSUKE UDONO TO IGA.

SCHWING

SOON THOSE VILE KOUGA RATS...

...WILL KNOW THE TRUE POWER OF THE IGA CLAN!

KILL NUMBER 3

[9 VS 9 (PART 2)]

TENZEN-SAMA...

WHAT HAPPENED TO YASHAMARU-DONO?

YASHAMARU ISN'T THE ONLY ONE I'M CONCERNED ABOUT. WHAT ABOUT SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI? HE WENT TO SUNPU ALONG WITH DANJOU KOUGA.

YES.

HE SHOULD MAKE IT HERE LATE THIS EVENING OR EARLY TOMORROW MORNING.

HMM...IF YASHAMARU LEFT SUNPU ALIVE ALONG WITH OGEN'S HAWK...

.....

THEN WE MUST HUNT DOWN SHOUGEN FIRST...

...AND TAKE THE SCROLL!

DANJOU MUST HAVE PASSED A SCROLL JUST LIKE THIS ALONG TO SHOUGEN.

WHY?

YOU GO BACK TO IGA.

AMAYO...

I'LL GO WITH YOU!

THAT'S RIGHT! WE MUST KILL SHOUGEN!

IF SHE FINDS OUT WHAT'S GOING ON... THERE WILL BE TROUBLE.

BECAUSE OF OBORO-SAMA...

DON'T DO ANY-THING UNTIL WE COME BACK WITH SHOUGEN'S HEAD.

UNDER-STAND?

IF YOU SHOULD FAIL, WE WOULD LOSE OUR ADVANTAGE.

.....

OKAY.

FIRST, SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI...

...MUST DIE.

THEY HOLD A STRANGE POWER...

HE'S A FEARSOME OPPONENT.

HIS EYES...

I WANT YOU TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.

IF OBORO-SAMA SEES THIS SCROLL...

SHE'LL TELL GENNOSUKE EVERYTHING.

IF I GET THE CHANCE, MAY I SLAY HIM?

...GEN-NOSUKE.

YOU'D BETTER NOT...

...UNDER-ESTIMATE HIM, JINGOROU.

WHOOSH

THAT EVE-NING.

ONE, TWO...

ONE, TWO...

.....

ONE, TWO...

ONE, TWO...

WHAT? ARE YOU SURE?

IT BELONGS TO JUUBEI JIMUSHI OF THE KOUGA CLAN.

WHAT'S WRONG?

I KNOW THAT CARRIAGE...

WHAT WOULD HE BE DOING HERE?

BUT...

JIMUSHI IS ONE OF THE TEN KOUGA NINJA LISTED ON THE SCROLL!

WHO CARES WHAT HE'S DOING HERE?

SHWING

SHWING

HE'S MINE!

HE'S NOT GETTING AWAY!

!

GOT IT!

SHWING

KILL ONLY THE CARRIAGE HOLDERS.

I'VE GOT SOME QUESTIONS FOR JIMUSHI!

KOSHIROU...

SLICE

ONE, T-?

FWOOSH

SKID

THUNK

ZWOOM

FWIP

FWIP

STEP

HMM...

YOU'RE WITH OGEN'S CLAN, ARE YOU?

SO... WHAT HAPPENS...

...IF I REFUSE?

STEP OUT-SIDE! WE HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

JUUBEI JIMUSHI! WE ARE FROM OGEN'S IGA CLAN.

SCHWIP

SLICE

CHINK

CRASH

HYA!

CRASH

CRASH

YOU RUINED MY FAVORITE CARRIAGE.

YOU'D BETTER DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

JUUBEI JIMUSHI

KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT

ME? WHERE THE HELL...

...ARE YOU AND YOUR PACK HEADING?

...JUUBEI?

WHERE WERE YOU HEADING...

TH-THAT'S JUUBEI JIMUSHI...

ACCORDING TO MY READING OF THE STARS, ILL FORTUNE HAS FALLEN UPON DANJOU-SAMA.

OH! YOU TOO?

WE CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND WAITING FOR HER...SO HERE WE ARE.

WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT OGEN-SAMA. SHE HASN'T RETURNED FROM SUNPU.

.....

READING THE STARS, EH?

IS THAT THE EXTENT OF YOUR NINJA TECHNIQUE?

I'LL STAY BEHIND.

I'VE GOT A FEW QUESTIONS FOR OUR FRIEND HERE.

ROUSAI, YOU GO ON AHEAD AND HUNT DOWN SHOUGEN. DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

OKAY.

WE DON'T WANT TO GET SIDE-TRACKED WITH JIMUSHI WHILE SHOUGEN GETS AWAY.

...BUT THERE ARE STILL A FEW KOUGA NINJA THAT I DON'T KNOW, AND YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.

WELL, JUUBEI...

I'M PRETTY FAMILIAR WITH THE KOUGA CLAN...

CLINK

YOUR STAR...

TELL ME, OR I'LL CHOP OFF YOUR HEAD!

TELL ME!

WHAT KIND OF TECHNIQUES DO THE TEN NINJA OF THE KOUGA-MANJIDANI SECT USE?

...PREDICTS ILL FORTUNE TOO!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

HA, HA, HA, HA!

HA!

SLICE

GRRGLL...

GRIN

RATTLE

RATTLE

STAB

STAB

THUD

SPLAT

SQUIRT

HYUU

HYUU

HYUU

GULP

KACHING

THUNK

IF MY ENEMIES KNEW ABOUT MY HIDDEN WEAPON, I'D BE DONE FOR, BUT...

GRIN

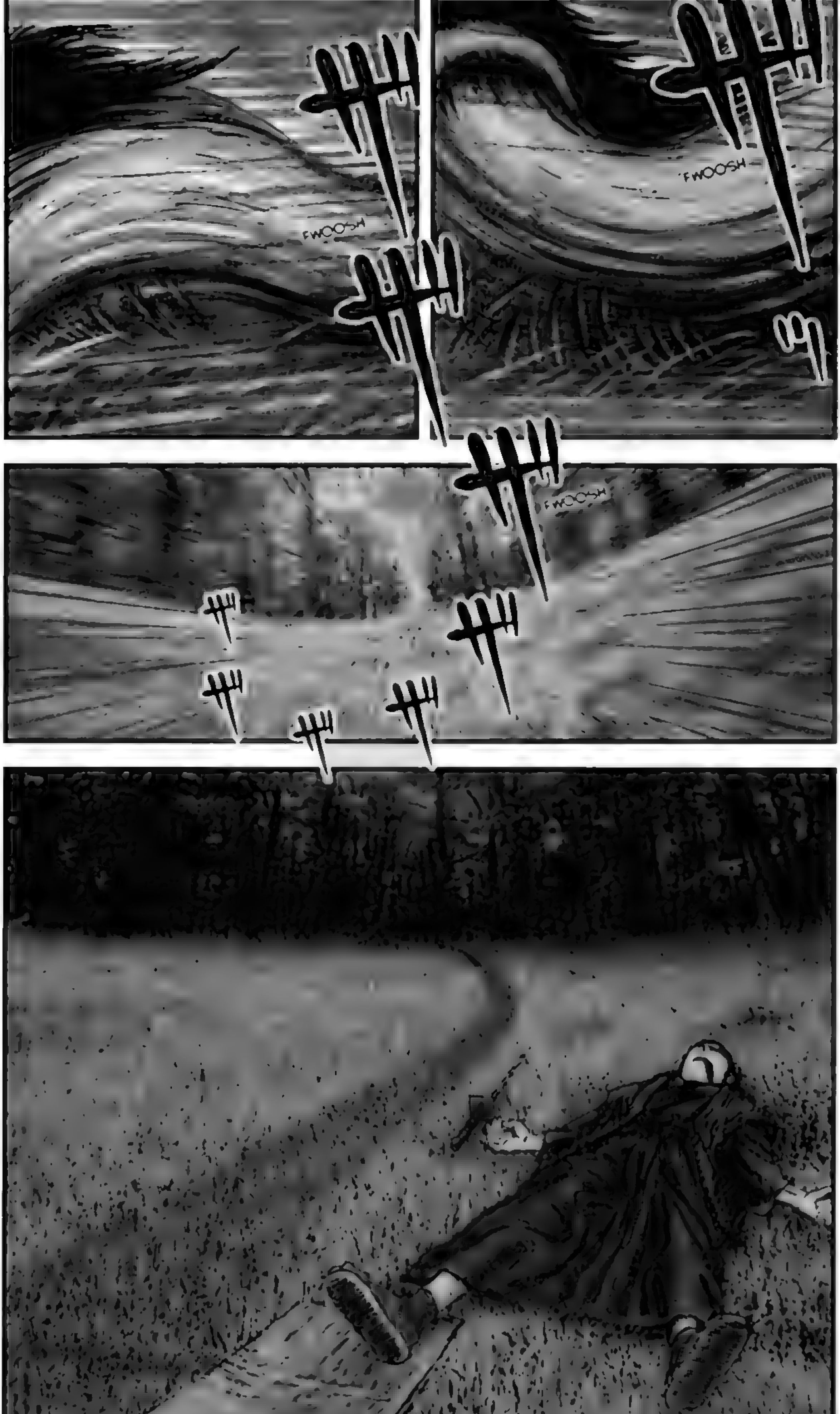
BY THE TIME THEY SEE IT, THEY'RE ALREADY HISTORY.

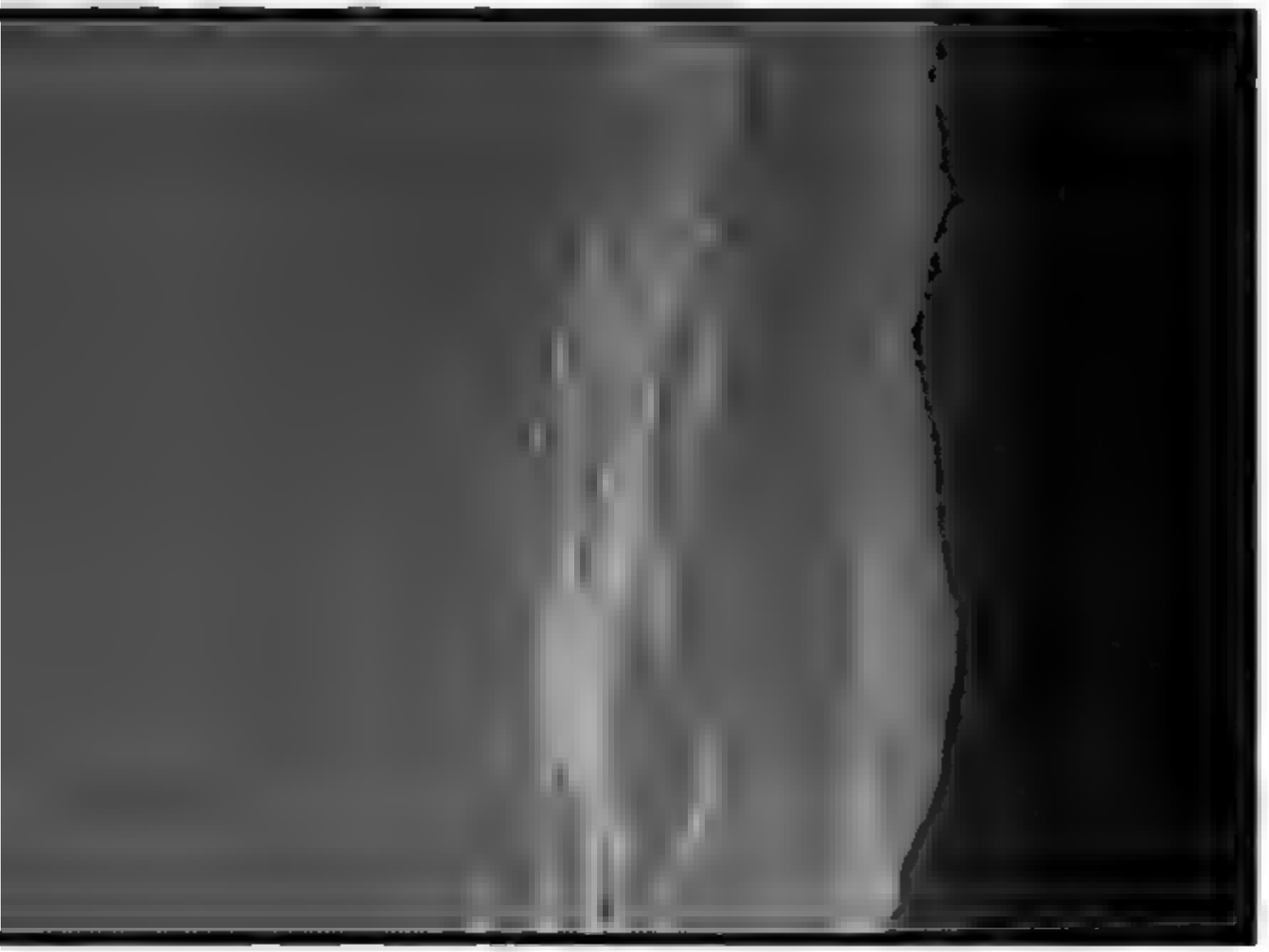
WHAT'RE THOSE IGA BASTARD'S UP TO?

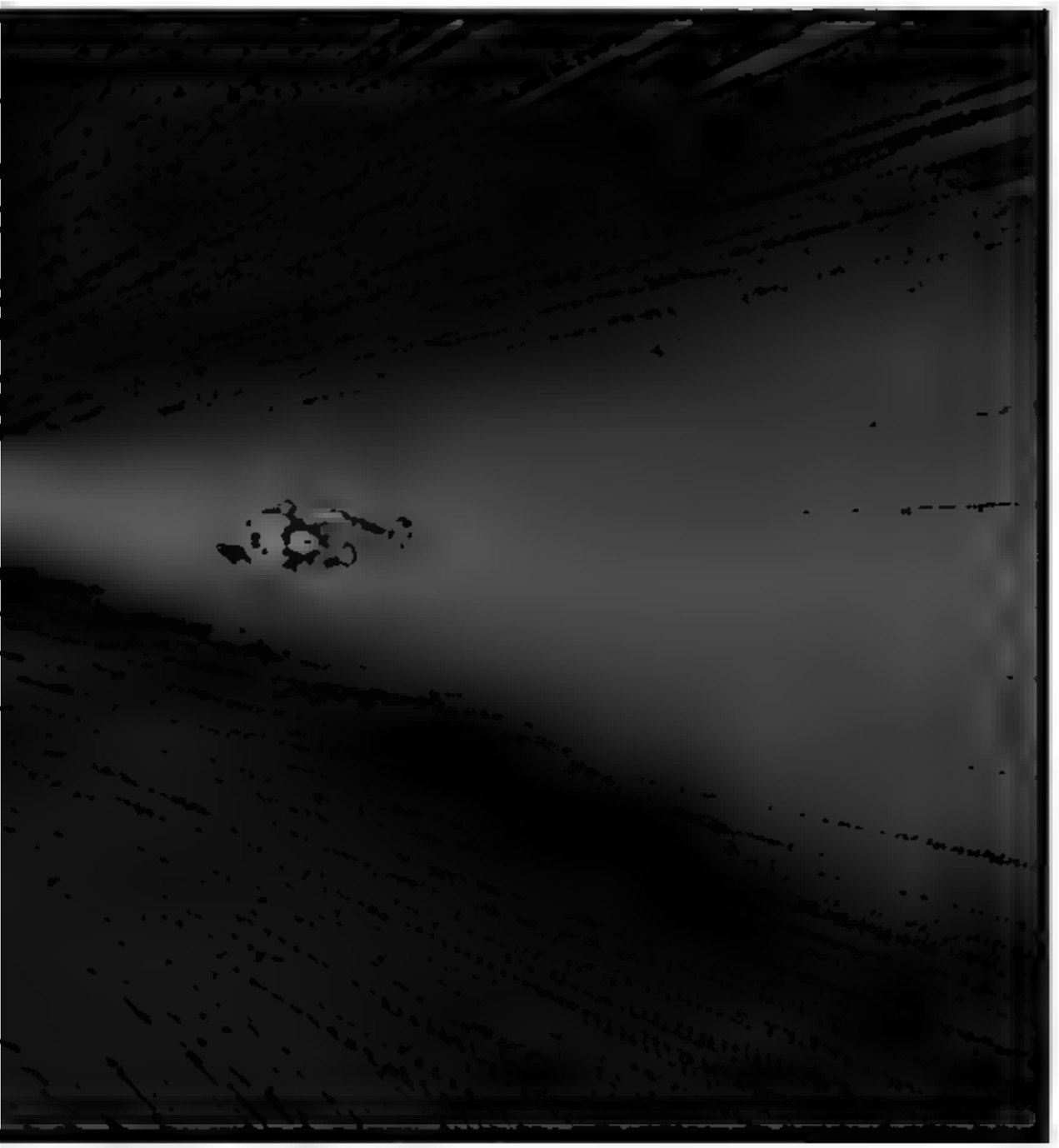
I DON'T GET IT...

NOW I'M EVEN MORE WORRIED...

...ABOUT SHOUGEN AND DANJOU-SAMA.


FWOOSH
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
FWOOSH





HSOOHM

WHOOSH!

WHOOSH

HYAA!

!

SQUIRT

SPLAT

UH?

WHA-!

UH?

YOU'RE FROM THE IGA CLAN?

.....

RUSTLE

HAND OVER...

...THE IGA VS KOUGA BATTLE SCROLL!

END OF KILL NUMBER 3

YOU'RE FROM THE IGA CLAN?

HAND OVER...

...THE IGA VS KOUGA BATTLE SCROLL!

KILL NUMBER 4

[9 VS 9 (PART 3)]

HUH?

HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SCROLL?

HMMPH...

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE OGEN'S IGA CLAN.

FWOOSH

SHUT UP, SHOUGEN!

FINE...

I'LL START OFF BY...

...CROSSING YOUR NAMES...

...OFF THE LIST!

FLASH

GRRR.

WHA-
!

AHH!

HRRMPH

HRRMPH

SWIVEL

HRRMPH

SWIVEL

SWIVEL

SKRAK

SKRAK

!

AHH!

THUD

IT'S TIME TO CRUSH THESE THREE LITTLE IGA FLIES...

HEH, HEH, HEH...

...WHO ARE CAUGHT IN MY WEB.

GRRR...

GRRIP

LET'S SEE...

DRIP

GRRR...

.....

GRIN

...WITH THE OLDEST.

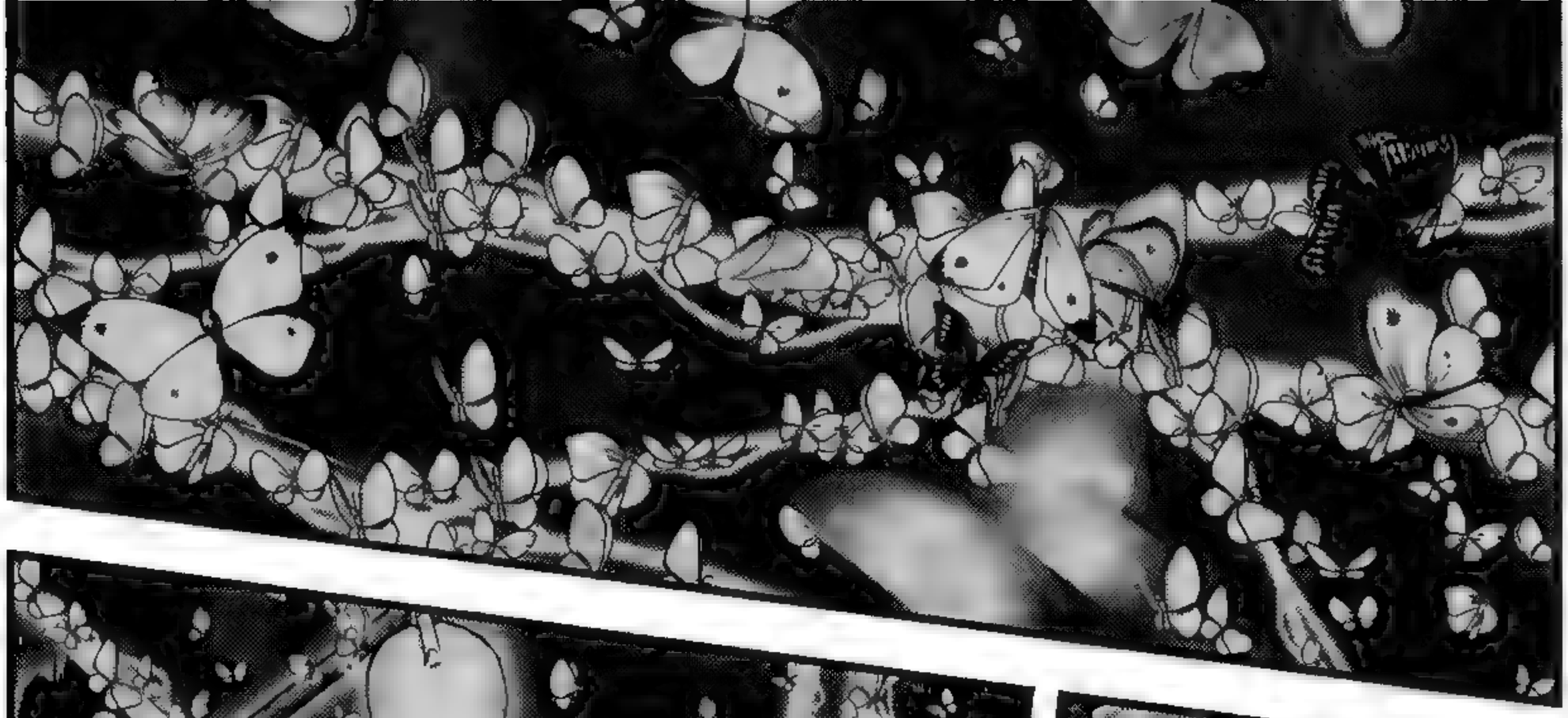
I THINK I'LL START...

ROAR
IT'S YOUR TURN!
THAT'S RIGHT...
AHHH!
WAHHH!
.....
I COULD TEAR OUT YOUR EYES...
...LET YOU CHOOSE HOW I KILL YOU.
HEH, HEH, HEH. I'M GONNA...
GRRRIP
...OR I COULD JUST SLIT YOUR THROAT...
PICK ONE, ROUSAL!
GO AHEAD...
A BUTTER-FLY?
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
HUH?
FLUTTER

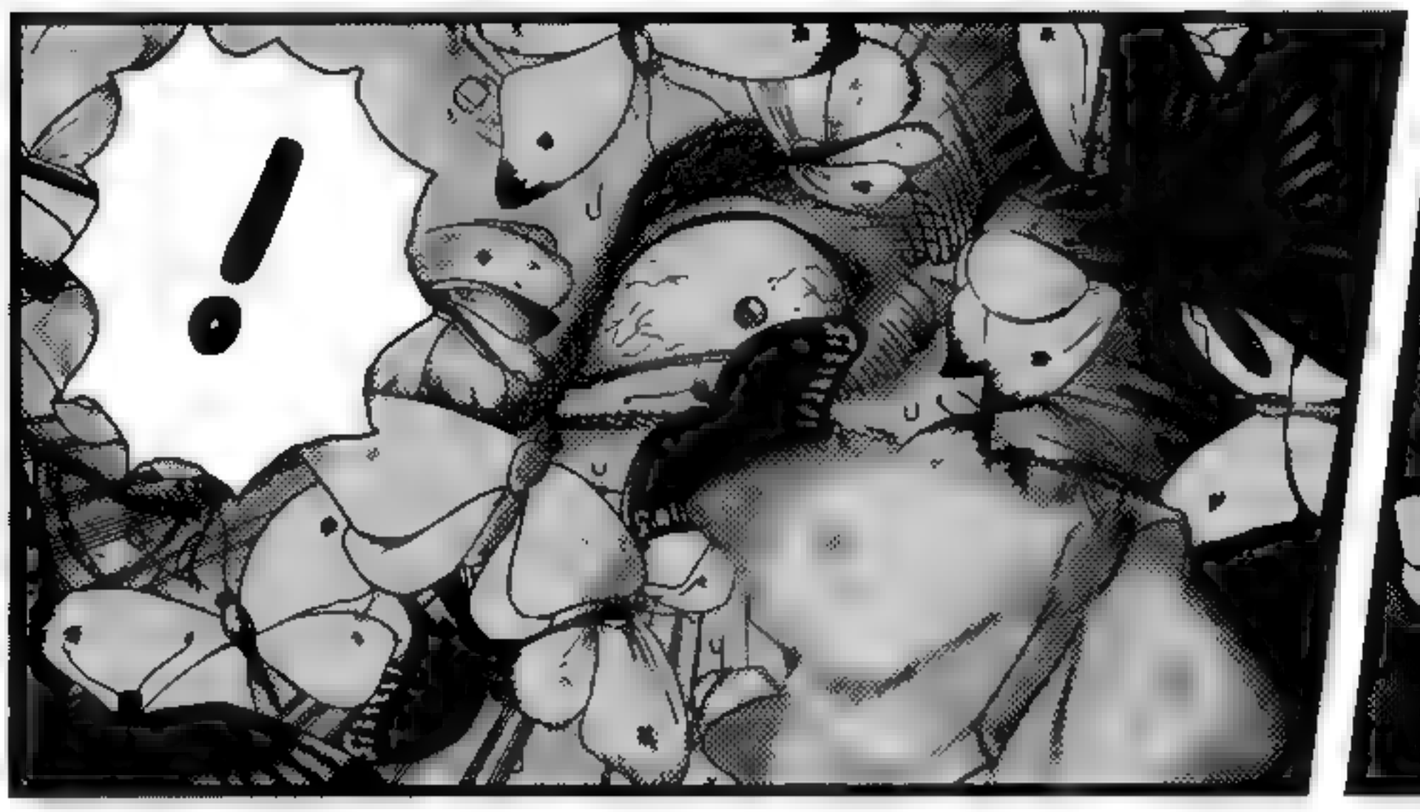
WHOA!

AHHHHH!

AHH!



HYAA!


!

!

HYUU

TOSS ME KOSHIROU'S SCYTHE!

HOTARUBI!

HYUU

YANK

SWOOP

THWACK

FLUTTER

HUH?

WOBBLE

YANK

YANK

SPLAT

I CAN CONTROL MY BODY HAIR AS EASILY AS I CAN MOVE MY ARMS AND LEGS.

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, YOU KOUGA BASTARD!

SQUIRT

!

HYUU

GRIP

PLOINK

GLUMP

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

HE'S STILL TRYING TO FIGHT BACK!

URR!

HYUH

AH!

HUH?

IS THAT...?

THA—

FLIP

JUUBEI...

JIMUSHI!

SHIT!

THAT LITTLE BASTARD!

WHOOSH

.....

SWIP

UHH...

UHL...

SQUIRT

SPLAT

!

IS YASHAMARU-DONO OKAY?

ANSWER ME, SHOUGEN.

SWIP

SHIVER

SLICE

UWAHH!

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

SLICE

STAB

STAB

SLICE

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

SHIT!

WHY CAN'T WE CATCH UP WITH HIM?

THEIR LEGS ARE NO MATCH FOR MY SNAKE-LIKE SLITHER.

FOOLS!

GRIN

WHOOSH

HUH?

WHOOSH

...THE SPEAR YOU HAVE HIDDEN IN YOUR THROAT, NOW WILL YOU?

OTHER-WISE, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO USE...

IT—

...CAN'T BE...

IT...

SPRONG

SCHWING

AHHH!

AHH!

YOU'D BETTER GET THAT SCROLL...

... OUT OF YOUR MOUTH.

SHINK

I NEVER FALL FOR THE SAME TRICK TWICE!

GRIN

SLICE

STEP

KACHINK

WHOOSH

AH!

TENZEN-SAMA!

WHAT HAPPENED TO JUUBEI?

WHERE'S JIMUSHI?

I JUST TOOK CARE OF HIM.

THAT MISERABLE PEST.

HEY, HOTARUBI.

WHAT ABOUT SHOUGEN?

SHOUGEN...

...IS NO MORE.

THIS CONTRACT HEREBY NULLIFIES THE TRUCE PUT INTO EFFECT BY HANZO HATTORI. THE TEN KOUGA NINJA AND THE TEN IGA NINJA NAMED ON THIS SCROLL WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH. THE SURVIVORS MUST DELIVER THIS SCROLL TO THE SUNPU CASTLE ON THE LAST DAY OF MAY, UPON WHICH THE SURVIVING CLAN SHALL RULE FOR 1000 YEARS.

KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU TOKUGAWA

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZEN YAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JIMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI

IT'S THE SAME THING.

HMMPH.

CRACKLE

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

GENNOSUKE KOUGA

YOUBU KA

JUKE UDONO

JA ON KISARAGI

SWIPE TUUMA MUROGA

KAGEROU

OKOI

BURN THE KOUGA SCROLL!

KOSHIROU. THERE'S NO POINT IN HAVING TWO OF THE SAME SCROLL.

SIZZLE

CRACKLE

IS CONTRACT HEREBY
LIFIES THE TRUCE PUT
O EFFECT BY HANZO
ORI. THE TEN KOUGA
JA AND THE TEN IGA
JA NAMED ON THIS
L WILL FIGHT TO THE
TH. THE SURVIVORS
ELIVER THIS SCROLL
SUNPU CASTLE ON
LAST DAY OF MAY,
UPON WHICH THE
VING CLAN SHALL
LE FOR 1000 YEARS.

., KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU

UGAWA

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

OGEN

OBORO

YASHAMARU

ROUSAI AZUKI

JINGOROU AMAYO

KOSHIROU CHIKUMA

NENKI MINO

HOTARUBI

TENZENYAKUSHIJI

AKEGINU

SEVEN MORE TO GO...

E TEN COMBATANTS
F THE KOUGA CLAN

[redacted]

GENNOSUKE KOUGA

[redacted]

[redacted]

GYOUBU KASUMI

JOUSUKE UDONO

SAEMON KISARAGI

HYOUMA MUROGA

KAGEROU

OKOI

...NO, IT WON'T.

BUT...IT WON'T BE EASY.

...AND THAT WILL BE US...

...OGEN'S IGA CLAN.

HEH...

BUT IN THE END, ONLY ONE CLAN WILL SURVIVE...

END OF KILL NUMBER 4

IGA-
TSUBAGAKURE
VALLEY

OGEN'S PALACE

TSUBAGAKURE SECT

KILL NUMBER 5

[7 VS 9]

WELL, AKEGINU-DONO...
SINCE I'M SO FAT...

.....

.....

I THINK ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME.

...I'D LIKE TO TAKE A SKINNY AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN LIKE YOU FOR MY WIFE.

.....

.....

.....

.....

HOW ABOUT IT, AKEGINU-DONO?

.....

WHY DON'T WE GET MARRIED? WE CAN BE JUST LIKE GENNOSUKE-SAMA AND OBORO-SAMA.

YOINK

...

IF WE BECAME A COUPLE...

WE COULD HELP BRING THE IGA AND THE KOUGA TOGETHER...

WILL YOU QUIT BEING SUCH A BAD DRUNK, JOUSUKE?

CAN'T YOU TELL YOU'RE MAKING AKEGINU-DONO UNCOM-FORTABLE?

RUB RUB

...AND END OUR LONG HISTORY OF HATRED.

RIGHT?

RIGHT?

...

AH, YES. RIGHT AWAY.

AH...

AKEGINU...

WHY DON'T YOU BRING OVER SOME PICKLES FOR GENNOSUKE-SAMA?

DAMN...

SHOT DOWN AGAIN.

SLAM

ROLL

ROLL

...QUITE A CHARACTER.

HE CERTAINLY IS...

PLEASE FORGIVE HIM, OBORO-DONO.

HE'S THE CLOWN OF THE KOUGA CLAN. HE'S ALWAYS MAKING TROUBLE.

GIGGLE

...

HERE YOU ARE.

CLINK

THEY TASTE A BIT DIFFERENT FROM OUR KOUGA PICKLES.

MMM, THESE ARE DELICIOUS.

CRUNCH

ポリ

.....

WE ORDER OUR SALT FROM THE AKOU AREA...

...AND WE KEEP PLENTY STORED IN THE SALT SHED BEHIND THE PALACE.

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE SALT WE USE.

GRIN

ニヤ

I'D EXPECT NO LESS FROM THE CLAN THAT SURVIVED THE BITTER TENSHOU IGA WARS.

ONE MUST HAVE SALT TO FEED AN ARMY.

HEH, HEH.

WELL... PREPARATION IS THE BANE OF MISFORTUNE!

UH... HEH.

SHUT YOUR TRAP

JOUSUKE...

...

WE HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE.

THIS PALACE, ALONG WITH THE TSUBAGAKURE VALLEY, WILL SOON BE YOURS, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

NO, IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.

...YES, OBORO-SAMA. IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, AKEGINU?

.....

...AND...

OUR...

KOUGA-MANJIDANI CLAN...

...THE TWO CLANS WITH THE MOST POWERFUL AND SKILLED NINJA...

...YOUR IGA-TSUBAGAKURE CLAN...

...HAVE DESPISED EACH OTHER AND OPPOSED EACH OTHER...

...EVEN WHILE UNDER HANZO'S ETERNAL TRUCE.

I THINK THAT HAS BEEN...

...A FOOLISH AND RIDICULOUS MISTAKE.

.....

YES...

...GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

THE BELLS OF PEACE WILL RING THROUGHOUT OUR TWO VALLEYS.

WE WILL BREAK THROUGH THE CHAINS THAT HAVE IMPRISONED OUR TWO CLANS, AND...

OBORO-DONO...

WHEN YOU AND I ARE JOINED TOGETHER...

AND HE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.

HMMPH... NOW HE'S GOT THEM ALL RILED UP...

WHERE ARE TENZEN AND—

HEY, THAT'S RIGHT...

I DON'T SEE THE GUYS WE MET AT THE TOKI PASS. WHERE ARE THEY?

HEY, AKEGINU-DONO.

I'D BETTER CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

WHAT?

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME WE RETIRE FOR THE EVENING?

O-OBORO-SAMA...

IT'S GETTING LATE...

わはは HA, HA, HA

I WOULDN'T MIND CALLING IT A NIGHT MYSELF.

わはは HA, HA, HA

YEAH!

THE SAKE IS STARTING TO HIT ME. I'M GETTING SLEEPY.

GOOD.

JINGOROU-DONO, I LED JOUSUKE TO *THE ROOM.*

CLICK

WELL...

TENZEN AND THE OTHERS ARE PROBABLY DISPOSING OF SHOUGEN AS WE SPEAK...

...FIND OUT ABOUT THE SCROLL. IF OBORO-SAMA HEARS ABOUT IT, WE'LL HAVE TROUBLE ON OUR HANDS.

AKEGINU, DON'T LET ANYONE ELSE IN OUR CLAN...

I UNDERSTAND.

BUT... TENZEN-SAMA TOLD US TO WAIT.

WHY DON'T WE TRY TO CROSS THEM OFF THE LIST OUR-SELVES?

SO, AKEGINU...

...WELL THEN...

...WE SHOULD ACT.

THAT'S PRECISELY WHY...

I'LL HANDLE JOUSUKE UDONO.

SNORT...

SNORT...

ZZZ

OGEN'S PALACE ANNEX

FLUMP

KNOCK

KNOCK

HMMPH.

THIS IS A STEEL DOOR COVERED IN PAPER.

GLIMPSE

STEEL BARS... JUST AS I SUSPECTED.

SLIDE ガラ

...THIS CAMOUFLAGED PRISON CAN HOLD ME?

SO THEY THINK...

HOW SAD...

GRRIP ガガガ

ぐっ ぐっ ぐっ

...RIKEGINU DESPISES ME THIS MUCH.

...TO THINK THAT...

ぼろ

ぐっ ぐっ ぐっ

OR-

DID SHE HAVE SOME OTHER REASON FOR LOCKING ME IN HERE?

ぐっ ぐっ ぐっ

WELL-

ぼろ

I'D BETTER MAKE SURE GENNOSUKE-SAMA IS OKAY.

THUNK

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

TAP

RUSTLE

.....

I FEEL LIKE AN ASSHOLE LISTENING TO THEM LIKE THIS.

STOP IT, GENNOSUKE-SAMA...

.....

TEE HEE.

OBORO IS WITH HIM.

?

CLINK

ISN'T THAT...

...AKEGINU?

.....

HE'S GONE.

BUT... HOW COULD THAT BE?

?

AH!

YOINK

WHO—

WHO THE HELL—?

HOW NICE TO SEE YOU, AKEGINU-DONO!

SQUEEZE

UH...

BOO!

JOUSUKE-...DONO!

HOW-HOW DID YOU...

...GET OUT?

MY LONGING TO SEE YOU FORCED ME OUT.

I BROKE OUT SO THAT I COULD SLEEP BESIDE YOU, MY LOVE.

SO, AKEGINU-DONO...

AREN'T YOU HAPPY?

YANK

...JUST FOR TONIGHT?

HOW ABOUT BEING MY WIFE...

!

YANK

FWAP

SQUASH

OUCH!

OH!

SHOCK

WHOA!

STEP

FLAP

OOF.

SWIPE

KACHINK

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE FRIENDLY COMPETITION, JOUSUKE-DONO?

IF I LOSE, I WILL BE YOUR WIFE FOR THE NIGHT...

...JUST AS YOU DESIRE. HOW ABOUT IT, JOUSUKE-DONO?

MY, MY... WHAT A PLEASANT SIGHT.

I'M NOT GONNA PULL ANY PUNCHES JUST BECAUSE WE'RE ONLY PLAYING, AKEGINU-DONO.

WELL, A FRIENDLY FIGHT BETWEEN TWO NINJAS SOUNDS INTERESTING, BUT...

?

?

UH...

NOR AM I.

UH...

AHHH!

TSS

WELL...

GOODNIGHT, GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

AHHHH!

SPLAT

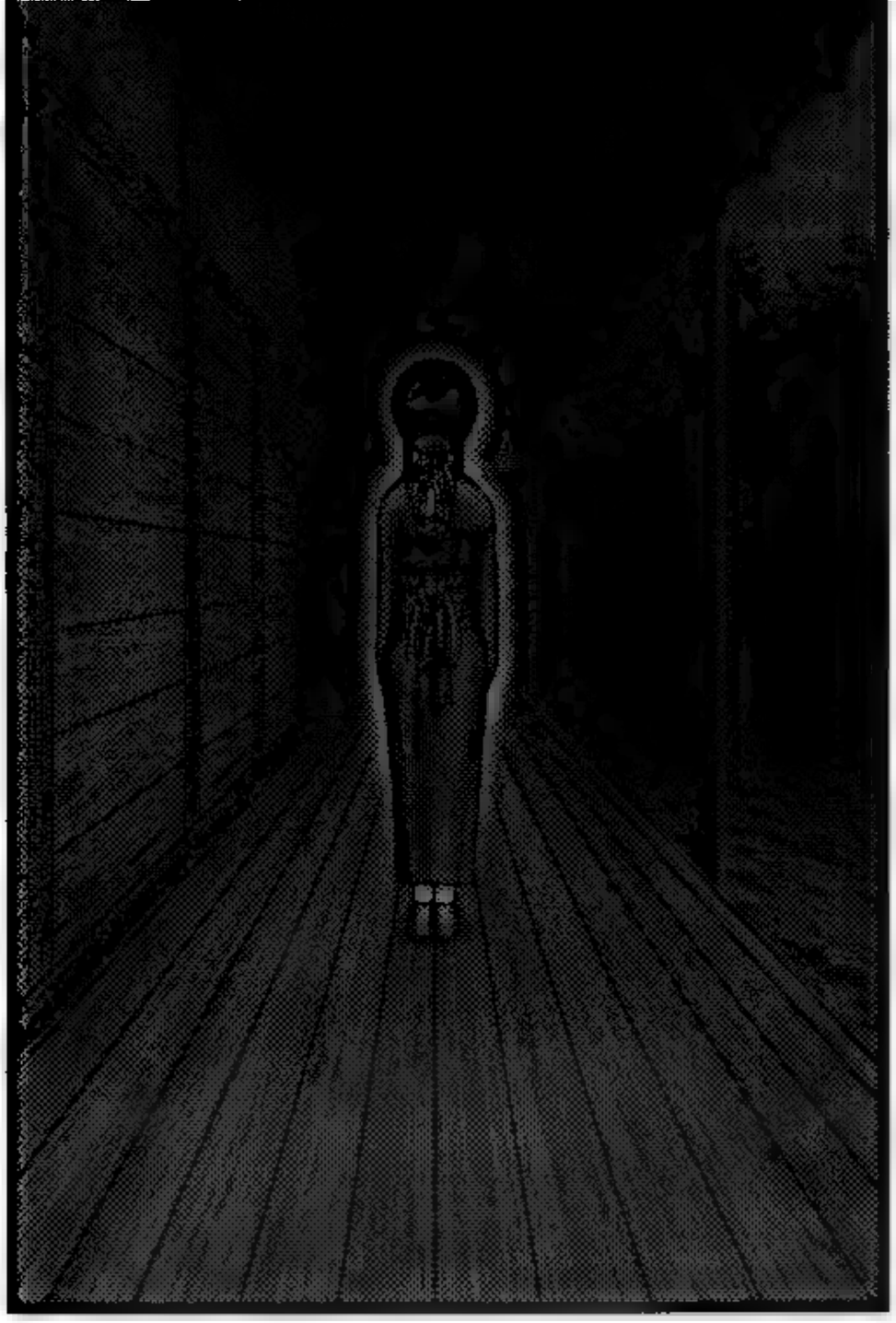
TAPPA

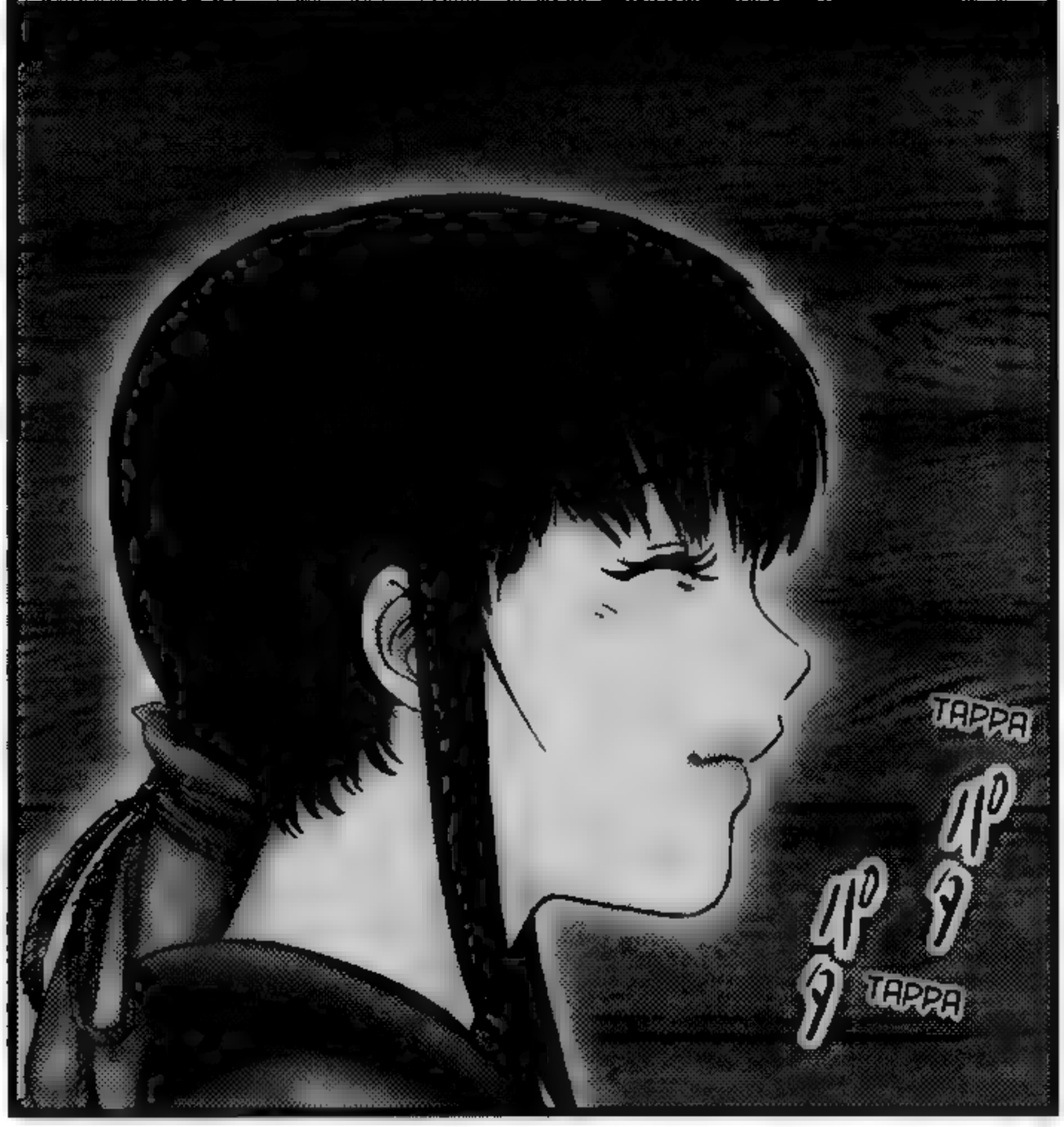
TAPPA

TAPPA

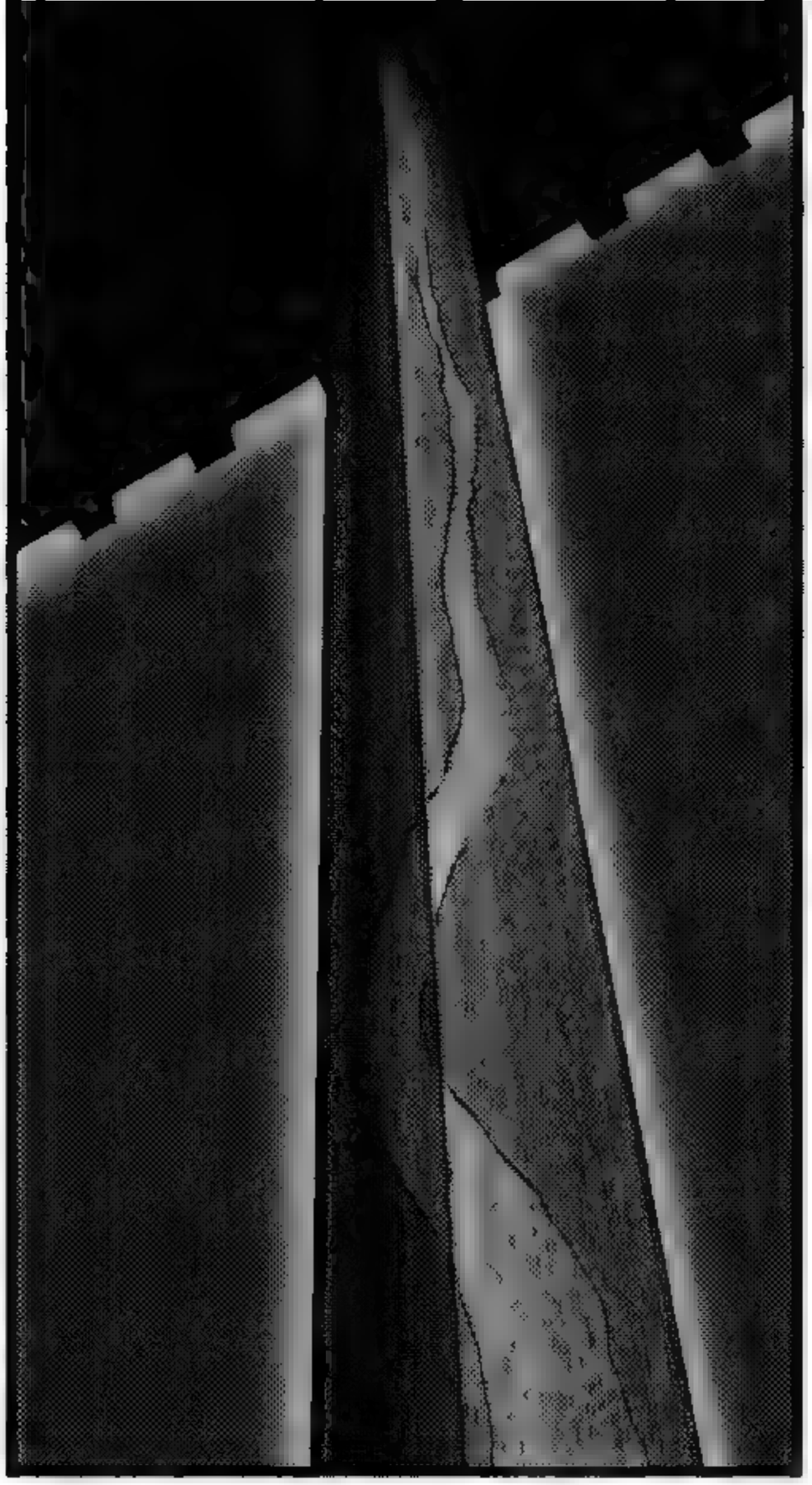
AHH!

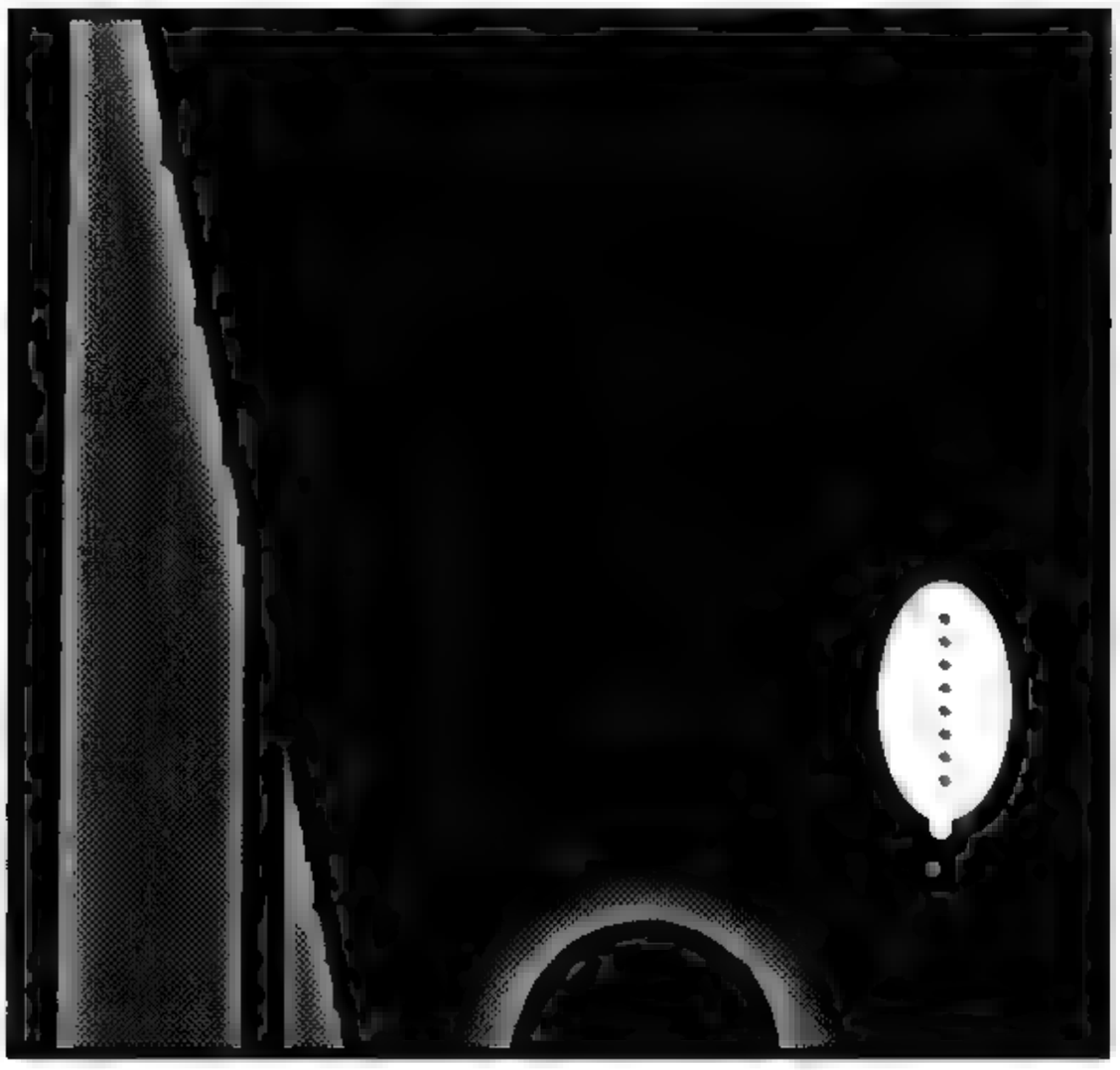
AHH!





END OF KILL NUMBER 5





...JINGOROU...

UH...

UH...

SHUDDER

UHH...

JINGOROU!

KYUU

KILL NUMBER 6
[7 VS 9 (PART 2)]

COME DOWN FROM THERE!

SPLAT

ちょっ

SHUDDER

SHUDDER

UH...

DRIP

13°

3

OSORO...

SAMA...

YOU'RE USING YOUR SECRET TECH-NIQUE...

JINGOROU...

DON'T LOOK AT ME.

DON'T-

PLEASE-

YOU COAT YOURSELF IN SALT AND MELT AWAY...

SO YOU CAN SNEAK UP ON YOUR ENEMY...

...AND SLAY HIM.

UHH...

UH...

JINGOROU!

ANSWER ME!

YOU WEREN'T...

...TRYING TO ATTACK GENNOSUKE-SAMA, WERE YOU?

I CAUGHT YOU RED-HANDED, AND NOW YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO SUFFER...

THAT'S YOUR PUNISHMENT, JINGOROU.

HOW PATHETIC...

WA-WATER...

UH...

SPLAT

I DON'T CARE WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE IN THE IGA CLAN...

IF YOU TRY TO HARM GENNOSUKE... I'LL DO WHAT-EVER IT TAKES TO STOP YOU.

!?

AAHHH!

WATER...
UH...
WA...
WATER...
?
?
WATER...
WATER...
PLEASE...
WAAAA—
—TER...
TAPPA
TAPPA
TAPPA

SWIP

BLIP

BLIP

SHIT!

WHERE THE HELL IS AKEGINU?

SHIT!
THIS BLOODY FOG IS SO THICK, I CAN'T SEE A DAMN THING.

SHE DIS-APPEARED.

SLICE

THUD

WOBBLE

GRIN

TIME TO CROSS JOUSUKE UDONO'S NAME OFF OF THE KOUGA LIST.

AH!!

BOING

SWACK

HOW THE HELL...

...CAN HE STILL BE ALIVE?

ZAA

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO CRUEL, AKEGINU-DONO?

I THOUGHT WE WERE JUST PLAYING AROUND. WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO IF I END UP DEAD?

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

...IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY SWORD-STOPPING FLESH-GRAB TECHNIQUE!

I WOULD'VE BEEN DOOMED...

SWIP

SLICE

VA-L

PLOINK

LOOKS LIKE I WON THIS TIME, AKEGINU-DONO.

GLARING

.....

O-
OBORO-
SAMA...

AKEGINU?

HOW COULD YOU ATTACK JOUSUKE--

AKEGINU?

.....

I'D PREFER IF GENNOSUKE-SAMA DIDN'T FIND OUT ABOUT THIS LITTLE INCIDENT.

YES, OF COURSE.

ACTUALLY, OBORO-DONO...

I'M THE ONE WHO LOST CONTROL... I RIPPED AKEGINU-DONO'S KIMONO OFF...

...AND SHE GOT A LITTLE ANGRY.

WE-
WELL...

THAT'S-

...

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT, OBORO-DONO?

AKEGINU-DONO ISN'T VERY FRIENDLY.

.....

LET'S GO, OBORO-SAMA.

Y-
YES...

GOOD NIGHT, JOUSUKE-SAMA.

GRIP

WELL...

...I GUESS I SHOULD FIND A WELL OR SOMETHING SO I CAN WASH OFF ALL THIS BLOOD.

HMMPH... AKEGINU REALLY WAS...

...TRYING TO KILL ME BACK THERE.

SPLOOSH

HMMPH...SHE MUST REALLY HATE ME.

MAYBE SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO DEFEND HER PRIDE.

WAAATER...

WATER...

WATER...

SPLOOSH

REAR WATERFALL - OGEN'S PALACE GROUNDS

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

HUH?

SQUISH

OGEN'S PALACE IS SO HUGE.

I GET LOST EVERYWHERE I GO.

THIS MUST BE THE SALT STORAGE SHED SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

?
?

I DON'T KNOW...BUT THIS SURE LOOKS LIKE A TRAIL.

IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING CRAWLED OUT OF THERE... AND LEFT A TRAIL?

HMMM...

WAIT!

THAT'S THE ROOM WHERE GENNOSUKE-SAMA IS STAYING.

WATER...

WA-
TER...

WATER...

.....

PLEASE...

WATER...

THAT WAS YOUR TRAIL LEADING FROM THE SALT SHED TO GENNOSUKE-SAMA'S ROOM.

SO IT WAS YOU... YOU FILTHY BEAST.

JINGOROU AMAYO...

WAAATER... PLEASE...

AHHHH!

SHIVER SHIVER

...TO CHANGE SHAPE AND ATTACK GENNOSUKE-SAMA, WEREN'T YOU, AMAYO?

YOU WERE TRYING...

HEH...

SPLOOSH

YOU'RE PRETTY THIRSTY, AREN'T YOU, AMAYO?

SPLOOSH

OKAY... SPILL IT!

AAAHH! WAATER!

WAATER!

TELL ME THE ANSWER, AND YOU CAN HAVE ALL THE WATER YOU WANT, AMAYO.

...JUST WHEN THE IGA AND THE KOUGA ARE ABOUT TO MAKE PEACE?

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL GENNOSUKE-SAMA...

SPLOOSH

...DISSOLVED.

THE HATTORI... TRUCE HAS BEEN...

AAHHH!

DRIP

DRIP

IGA AND—

KOUGA ARE...

WIGGLE

AHH...

DRIP

WHA- WHAT? THE HATTORI TRUCE?

AND?

SPLOOSH

AAHHH!

THE WAR HAS BEGUN!

SPIN

SPLOOSH

WHAT ABOUT IGA AND KOUGA?

SKREE

AAHH!!

IV

DAMN, I SLIPPED!

HE MUST'VE ABSORBED SOME ENERGY FROM THE WATERFALL'S MIST.

HRRRNNNN

THERE'S NO WAY I'LL DROWN!

FOOL! I CAN HANDLE MYSELF IN THE WATER!

HAHHH

GLUB

GLUB

GLUB

GLUB

SPLASH

GASP

FWOOSH

GASP

SPLASH

SPLOOSH

SPLOOSH

SPLOOSH

GLUK

GLUK

SPLASH

SPLASH

SPLASH

THWUD

A-EAH

HEH, HEH.

KA

AAAHHHH!

AAHHHH!

SPLUNK

GWAHH!

RRRRIP

SIGH

SIGH

...IS NO MORE.

THAT TAKES CARE OF ONE OF THE TEN KOUGA NINJA JOUSUKE UDONO...

KU-

GRIN

KOUGA-
MANJIDANI
SECT

DAIJOUK
OUGA
PALACE

SIZZLE

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

.....

HYOUMA MUROGA

KOUGA MANJIDANI SECT

JIMUSHI'S READINGS ARE USUALLY ACCURATE, BUT...

WELL...

YOU MEAN, BECAUSE JUUBEI JIMUSHI'S READING OF THE STARS PREDICTED ILL FORTUNE FOR DANJOU-SAMA AND SHOUGEN?

GYOUBU KASUMI

KOUGA MANJIDANI SECT

COULD SOMETHING HAVE GONE WRONG IN SUNPU?

GENNOSUKE-SAMA HASN'T RETURNED SINCE HE LEFT TO MEET OBORO OF THE IGA CLAN...

THAT REMINDS ME...

SAEMON KISARAGI

KOUGA MANJIDANI SECT

.....

HE SAID THAT GENNOSUKE-SAMA AND JOUSUKE WOULD BE STAYING IN IGA FOR A FEW DAYS.

LAST NIGHT, AN IGA MESSENGER ARRIVED.

GRIP

WHY IS GENNOSUKE-SAMA SO DESPERATE...

KAGEROU

KOUGA MANJIDANI SECT

...TO SEE THAT OBORO GIRL?

TO BE CONTINUED IN BOOK 2

about the authors

FŪTARO YAMADA

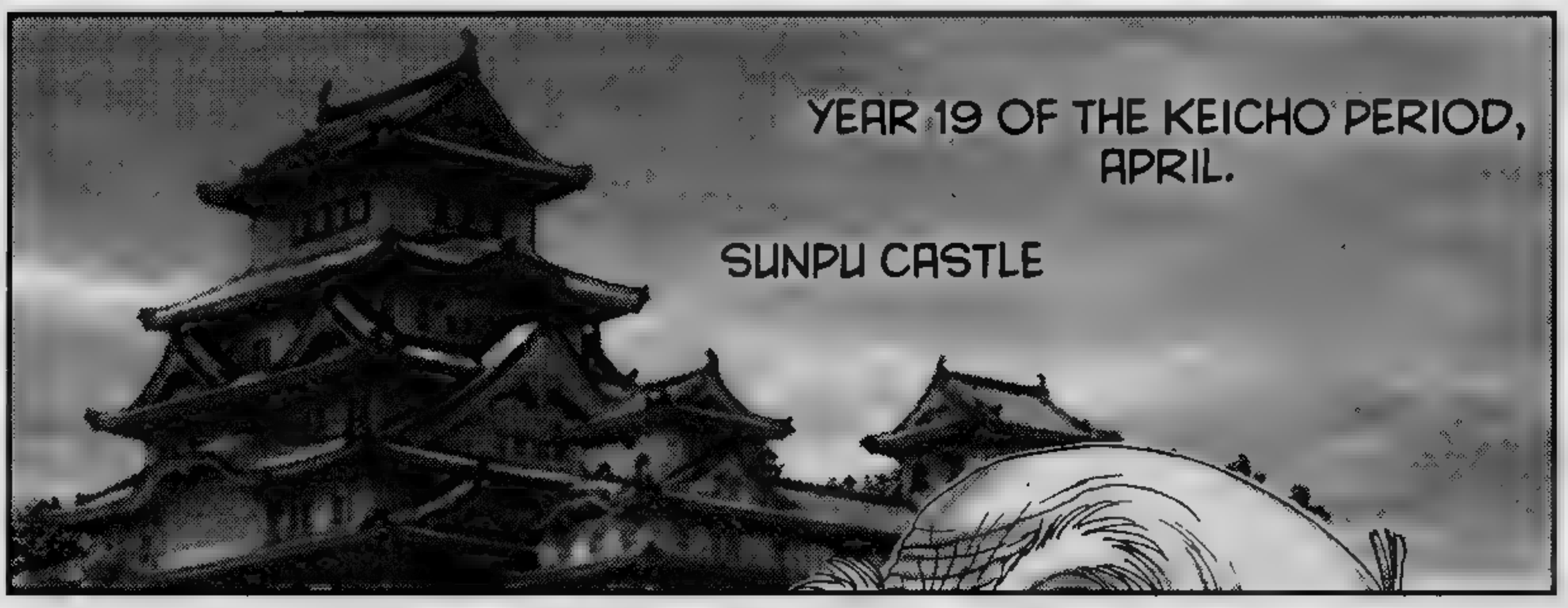
Born in 1922 in Hyogo Prefecture,
Fūtaro Yamada made his debut as a novelist while still a student at Tokyo Medical University. Yamada was known for his mystery novels such as *Ganchuu No Akuma*. Later his Ninja Scrolls series became wildly popular. He penned a wide body of literature, including the period piece *Makaitensei*, as well as several collections of essays such as *Ato Senkai No Banmeshi* and *Ningen Rinjyuu Zukan*.
He passed away on July 28, 2001.

MASAKI SEGAWA

Masaki Segawa made his debut in 1997 with the series Senma Monogatari, which ran in the weekly comic *Morning*. In 1998, he began his long-running *Uppers* magazine series Onigiri Jyuuzou, which ended in 2000. This is his second long-running series, and his first adaptation. He loves cats and watermelon.
He currently resides in Funabashi.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.



***THE KEICHO ERA*, PAGE 7**

The Keicho Era took place between 1596–1615. Year 15 of the Keicho Era would be the year 1610. Sunpu is the ancient name for the city of Shizuoka, where Sunpu castle was situated. Sometime in the early 1580s, Ieyasu Tokugawa took over the castle. Although Tokugawa lived in Edo for most of his life, he spent his later years in Sunpu. The ruins and rebuilt sections of the castle can still be visited today.

IEYASU TOKUGAWA, PAGE 7

Ieyasu Tokugawa (1543–1616) was the seventh Tokugawa shogun. After the emperor granted him the position of shogun, Tokugawa set up his government in Edo (Edo is the old name for Tokyo).

MUNENORI YAGYUU, PAGE 7

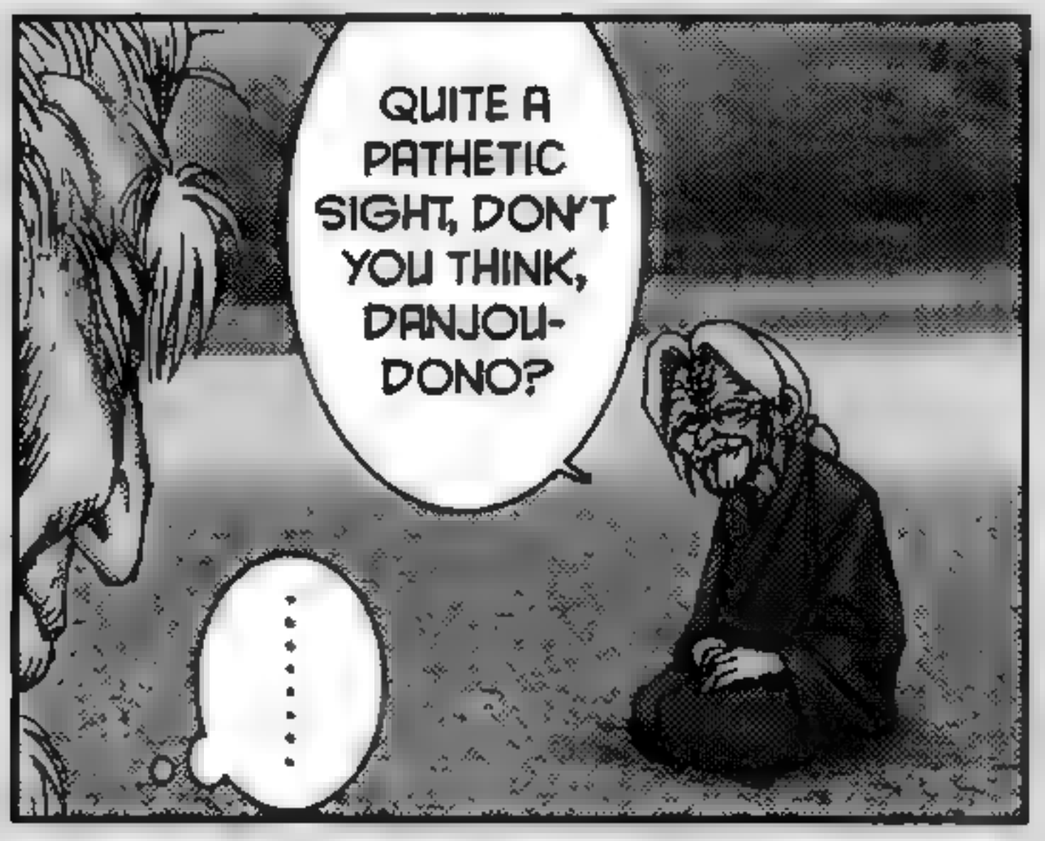
Munenori Yagyuu (1571–1646) was a skilled swordsman who served Ieyasu Tokugawa and taught swordplay to the Tokugawa samurai.

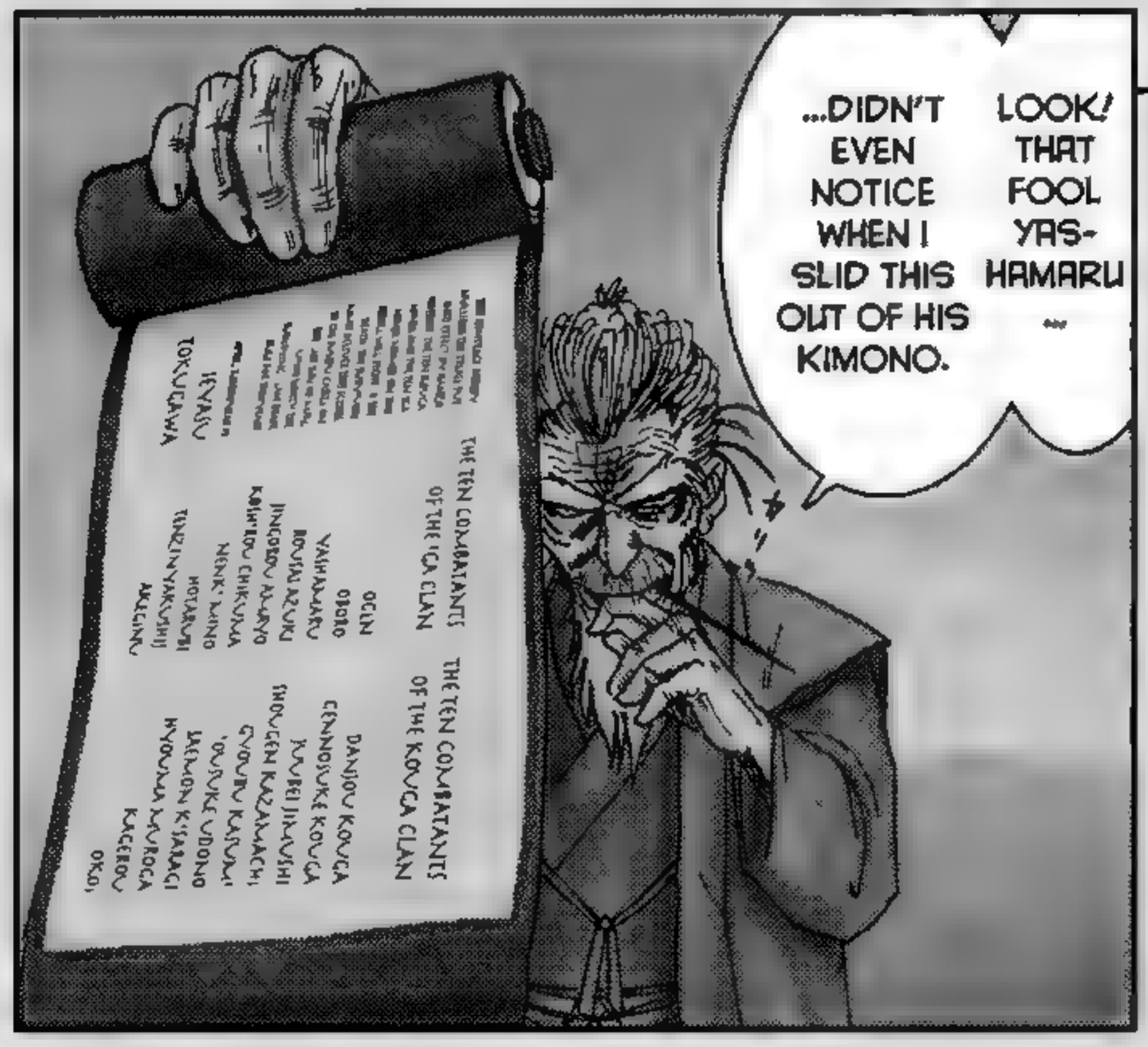
HANZO HATTORI, PAGE 7

Hanzo Hattori (1541–1596) was a famous ninja who loyally served Ieyasu Tokugawa. The scroll on page 26 refers to Hattori's predecessor, who was also named Hanzo Hattori. It is believed that there may have been as many as four predecessors who went by the name Hanzo Hattori.

DONO, PAGE 15

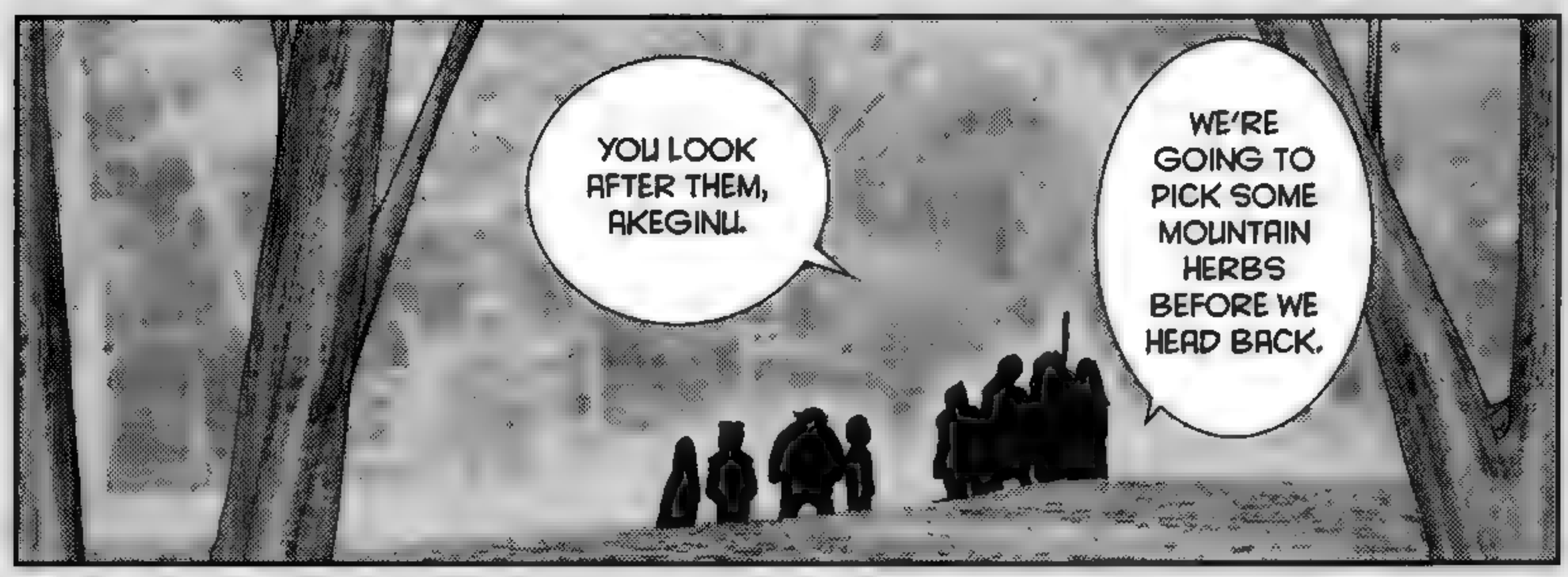
The honorific term "dono" after a person's name is used throughout Basilisk. "Dono" is an archaic honorific that is even more formal than "sama." It is only occasionally used today.





FUTOKORO, PAGE 43

Danjou Kouga actually slid the scroll out of Yashamaru's "futokoro." The futokoro is the place at the chest where two parts of a kimono come together. The futokoro was commonly used as a place to hold one's valuables.



SANSAI, PAGE 77

Amayo mentions that his crew is going to pick "sansai." Sansai are vegetables such as young fern shoots and wasabi sprouts that grow in the mountainous areas of rural Japan. Sansai are often added to soba and udon soups.

***KOU NO MONO*, PAGE 151**

"Kou no mono" is an archaic term for pickled vegetables. In modern times, they are generally called "tsukemono." The Japanese eat a variety of pickled vegetables, such as cucumbers, eggplant, and daikon radish, to name but a few.

***FUSUMA*, PAGE 160**

The door in Udono's room is called a "fusuma." Fusuma are wooden doors covered with hard paper. When Udono realizes the door is actually made of steel, he knows that the Iga clan is up to something.

The Battle Begins

The Iga clan and the Kouga clan have been sworn enemies for more than four hundred years. Only the Hanzo Hattori truce has kept the two families from all-out war. Now, under the order of Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa, the truce has finally been dissolved. Ten ninja from each clan must fight to the death in order to determine who will be the next Tokugawa Shogun. The surviving clan will rule for the next thousand years.

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